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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Apr

LD2904064495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0506 GMT 29 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 29 Tass—Russian newspapers concentrate today on the coming May Day holidays.

The Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper gives a surprising reply to the question "Who hoisted the Banner of Victory over the Reichstag?" It quotes documents in a sensational historic investigation, showing that troops commanded by Captain V. Makov rather than M. Yegorov and M. Kantaria were the first to raise the red flag over the Reichstag.

Discussing the importance of the V-Day, editor-in-chief of the Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper Vitaliy Tretyakov drives an idea in his daily that the V-Day "is not a lost holiday for us. This holiday is a victory for the Russian people after all. The defeat was much later...".

Writing in an article headlined "People brought Stalin to the victory and not vice versa", publicist Otto Lacis argues in the Izvestiya newspaper with some points in a report by Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin at an international conference dealing with lessons of the Second World War.

Turning to a statement by the Russian cabinet head on usefulness of "the prestige of authority" and "exactingness" of Stalin, the journalist draws a conclusion that Stalin was guilty of the Red Army's defeat even before the start of the war. Voluntarism in running the economy, which resulted in an economic slump by the end of the 1930s, undoubtedly told on the course of the war.

In the opinion of Lacis, the appraisal of Stalin's historic role is interesting "in the light of growing political activity of the premier in the election campaign", having in mind Chernomyrdin's recent statement on setting up a centre-right bloc.

Warning against the extremes, the journalist believes that "it would be more becoming for a reformer politician to give such interpretation of the role of personality, which is given by genuine science".

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda also writes about the pre- election evolution of the Russian cabinet head. "Indeed, there is a dire need for a sober-minded political centre", for the role of which the newly-born blocs intend to make claims, the newspaper notes.

However, the daily is doubtful about validity of these intentions. In this connection, it recalls Chernomyrdin's own words "you want to do as best as possible, but the outcome turns out as usual".

The trade union newspaper Trud carries the results of a poll on the topic "What does May Day mean to you?" Respondents express different attitude to a day which was marked with a great pomp in the past, some calling it "just a holiday of spring, love and hopes", others—a pretext for putting forth social and political demands.

For instance, the chairman of the Moscow Trade Union Federation said that over 20,000 people will turn out for a May Day demonstration. In this connection, the Pravda newspaper states that "it will be a vain attempt to lure today's 'top crust' in May Day columns of rank-and-file marchers".

The Rossiyskiye Vesti newspaper features a picture story about a spring military conscription. Reminding its readers of a bill, recently adopted by the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house), under which the period of military service is extended and privileges for university graduates are abolished, the daily describes a negative reaction to this decision by legislators.

On the contrary, Rossiyskaya Gazeta positively describes the Duma document, noting that if the bill is approved, the general manning of troops will rise to 75-80 percent without additional expenditures.

Most leading Russian newspapers do not give much front-page space to regional conflicts against the general festive background, publishing, in the main, brief reports from "flash points".

Pravda runs a biased set of materials on television with a subtitle "ORT": Oligarchic Russian Television" (Eds: In actual fact, the Russian abbreviation "ORT" means "Public Russian Television", over which passions are now flying high in the country).

This notwithstanding, the newspaper printed the programme of ORT telecasts for the next week, true, with the TV network's previous name "First Ostankino channel".

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Iran Reactor Issue To Be Discussed With Clinton

MM0105080795 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Sergey Postanogov: "Will a Russian Nuclear Mushroom Spring Up in Iran?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President's participation in the Moscow anniversary celebrations is not the only purpose of his visit to the Russian capital. Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin will meet in May. We learned from diplomatic sources that one of the main topics of conversation for the two leaders will be the question of the delivery of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran.

The rumors of the Russian-Iranian contract had not been made public before the U.S. Administration lodged a protest over the deal and even made attempts to put pressure on Russia to prevent the contract being realized.

Why were the Americans so worried? According to the official line, Iranian scientists will allegedly be able to develop nuclear weapons. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has expressed his misgivings publicly on this score. During his visit to Moscow U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry tried to put pressure on Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and on Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomoyrdin. However the Russian politicians were extremely determined: If cooperation with Iran develops vigorously, the profits from it will exceed the promised U.S. aid.

Can the reactors help Iran to develop nuclear weapons? Russian and U.S. scientists believe that this type of reactor can hardly be used for military purposes. (It is worth noting here that the Americans themselves intend to supply North Korea with similar reactors. However, they are not raising a hullabaloo over that).

Russia has even less interest than the United States in its immediate neighbor to the East suddenly beginning to rattle nuclear weapons. The Russian leadership thoroughly studied Iran's potential before concluding the deal and did not find anything dangerous in this project. Is the view better from across the ocean?

Iran Submarine Deal May Be Dropped To Please U.S.

MM0105075195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Stanislav Kucher and Dmitriy Kulik: "Is Russian 'Stealth' Submarine Surfacing in Iran....?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Journalists from one of the Gulf countries have "unearthed" a sensational story: A month ago Moscow is alleged to have agreed to supply disgraced Iran with an "ultrasophisticated submarine."

This information once again caused quite understandable irritation among Western military experts, particularly Americans. First, Iran is one of the United States' main adversaries, second (and this is the main reason), the United States is plainly unhappy at Russia's growing autonomy on the Near East arms market. The Gulf countries (the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia) are also voicing their concern at the possibility of Russian-Iranian military cooperation—they see Iran as the main threat to peace in the region now.

How true is the report of the sale of our submarine to Iran?

Right now Russian diplomats are refusing to comment on this, but, according to a representative of the state structure which handles Russian arms shipments abroad, the "possibility of selling a submarine to Iran is not ruled out. A deal is in the offing but, if it is concluded, the submarine will not be in Iran before the summer."

From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's Files

Since 1986 the Soviet Union supplied Poland, Romania, Algeria, and India with a "Kilo"-class diesel submarine. Russia sold Iran two submarines in 1991-1992. At the time the contract was worth over $0.5 billion.

Experts assure us that this submarine is "one of the most noiseless in the world and is highly modern." The Western military have dubbed it a "black hole at sea": Because its noise levels are reduced to a minimum it is virtually impossible to detect. Since it is equipped with 18 torpedoes and 24 mines and has the well-known "Igla" antiaircraft missile system on board the submarine is capable of combating any warship regardless of size or equipment.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has voiced his misgivings at Iran's growing "submarine force."

Russian-Iranian cooperation on the whole is one of the most controversial issues when it comes to the development of Russian-U.S. relations. Your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent was told by a special service staffer who wanted to remain anonymous that in the light of the U.S. President's visit to Moscow the "submarine deal is in jeopardy. The politicians may abandon it for the pleasure of seeing Clinton at the Victory Parade."

Clinton Expected To Take 'Hard-Line' Position

MM2804145895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 95 First Edition p 6

[Commentary by Vladimir Silkin: "Any Move Is Bad? The 'Honeymoon' in Russian-American Relations Is Over. What Happens Next?]

[FBIS Translated Text] The less time remains until the Russian-U.S. summit meeting, the more pressing is the question, what will it produce, and, most importantly, what will happen afterward? In A. Kozyrev's expression,

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the "honeymoon" in Russian-U.S. relations is over. And R. Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate, recently stated that B. Clinton's excessive concentration on Russia contradicts America's national interests.

Judging by the statements of both sides, the greatest friction at the present time is caused by three groups of problems—NATO's eastward expansion, deliveries of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran, and the crisis in Chechnya.

Speaking in Washington recently, B. Clinton stated that in Moscow he will once again try to convince Boris Yeltsin of the logic of NATO's eastward expansion and of canceling the "nuclear contract" with Iran.

In their turn both Boris Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin have repeatedly stressed that NATO's eastward expansion is unacceptable to Russia, and that we will deliver reactors to Iran. Other offical spokesmen have also made "hard-line" statements. P. Grachev's statement that NATO's eastward expansion could lead to Russia revising its commitments in the military sphere provoked a strong reaction in Western political circles, as did A. Kozyrev's recent speech stressing that Moscow may use force to defend the interests of Russians in the former Soviet republics (although Kozyrev later corrected himself, saying that he had not been understood quite correctly).

It is obvious that a reassessment of values is under way in the Russian leadership's standpoint—the annulment of the Warsaw Pact has not led to a bloc-free Europe. The accelerated withdrawal of troops from the Baltic has not lead to the cessation of violations of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in those countries. The prolongation of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and Iraq continues to inflict economic damage on the Russian economy. And specialists see behind the opposition to the delivery of Russian reactors to Iran not concern over the threat of [Iran's] developing nuclear weapons, but the desire to eliminate a dangerous competitor on the international nuclear market. If all the assets and debits accrued through the unconditional support of Western political initiatives in the past 10 years are placed in the scales, the desired equilibrium does not result, even if you look at these scales through the most rose-tinted glasses.

The volte face which is now taking place in relations with the West, especially with the United States, is, all the signs suggest, not just the latest, spontaneous hitch, but a reinterpretation of the existing situation, [a recognition of] the needs of defense.

This, however, by no means implies that Russian diplomacy is ready to perform a 180-degree turn and replace its former course of cooperation with the West with confrontation. The course remains the same, but the necessary correctives have been made to it—Russia no longer wishes to pay other people's bills and make unilateral concessions, receiving nothing in return.

But the U.S. Administration's position is no better. Using chess terminology, B. Clinton currently finds himself in Zugzwang, that is, a position in which in all circumstances he must make a bad move. Even if the U.S. President does reach the conclusion that Russia has already met the West halfway (and even more) and that now it is America's turn, he will still not be able to make concessions—the pressure of the conservative Republican Congress and the presidential elections due next year dictate another course of action. Therefore, in Moscow the U.S. leader will be forced to take hard-line positions in order to try to win concessions from B. Yeltsin. I think there will be concessions, but only to a certain limit. Compromise is needed on both sides.

Clinton's Response to Oklahoma City Praised

MM2804152595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 3

[Commentary by Aleksandr Golts: "Outbreak of Terrorism: Tokyo-Oklahoma City.... Will Every Place Be Affected in the Future?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week the FBI succeeded in more or less precisely determining the list of suspects for the terrible crime of blowing up an administrative building in the U.S. city of Oklahoma City. But the results of the actions of the special services, which worked swiftly and with skill, really shocked inhabitants of the United States. "I cannot believe that an American did this," Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich blurted out.

If we stand the explosion in Oklahoma City alongside the gas attacks which were unleashed one after the other on residents of Tokyo, these events not only confound established views of terrorism but also point to a serious new threat hanging over a great range of countries. After all, just recently it seemed that terrorism was just one of the most terrible consequences of regional and ethnic conflicts and the excesses of criminal clans. So no one is surprised at all by terrorism in the Near East or Latin America. Even when a large explosion shook the Spanish capital last week, this corresponded to the usual pattern: It is in precisely this barbaric manner that Basque separatist terrorists pursue their goals, which need no further interpretation.

But what happened in the United States and Japan does not conform to these patterns. It is significant that in the very first hours after the explosion in Oklahoma in the United States, people were sure that Muslim fundamentalists like those who a few years ago caused the explosion at the World Trade Center in New York were to blame. But it turned out that it was not Arab criminals or cutthroats funded by money from Iran (against which Washington has been waging war for several years now using legitimate as well as illegitimate methods) who carried out this atrocity. No, it was U.S. citizens who were at first sight completely respectable who organized and carried out this monstrous homicide. So the illusion

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that terrorism in a so-called "civilized country" can only come from outside was shattered.

You can, of course, put forward a different scenario greatly favored by our international affairs specialists of yesteryear. Indeed, members of a right-wing extremist organization which does not just stand up for the "purity of the white race" but is also prepared to fight savagely for the right to possess and use arms were detained for participating in the terrorist act. Moreover, it is reported that the organization seriously considers the Washington administration to be a load of traitors who are encroaching on Americans' freedoms and even paving the way for...Russian intervention in their beloved States. So can right-wing extremism coupled with arming of society at large be a breeding ground for terrorism?

But this scenario, in which there is without doubt a grain of truth, conflicts with what happened in Japan. After all it is forbidden to possess arms in that country. To all appearances, the crime there does not have any clear underlying political cause whatsoever. It was committed at the behest of the divine teacher, period. In this connection you have to conclude that in any—even the most normal and civilized—society, there is a certain number of people who interpret the ever-growing complexities of that society in an extremely distorted manner. So distorted that they are ready to bring death to their fellow citizens. On the other hand, this very civilization put extremely powerful means of destruction into these people's hands. The religious fanatics of Aum Shinrikyo quite legally kitted themselves out with chemicals for the production of nerve gas. In exactly the same manner as fertilizer was used as a constituent of the explosive in Oklahoma City.

So you get the following situation: Organizers of mass murder appear on the scene whose motives are practically impossible to foresee; consequently it is extremely difficult to forestall them. It is also no less complicated to establish control over the devices which they will take it upon themselves to use to realize their aims. I must point out that all this is of direct relevance to Russia. After all, in a troubled society such as our own, people may also be found who are prepared to do battle with the whole world.

Here, of course, the state, which by definition should protect its citizens, bears a great responsibility. How can this protection be provided without giving in at the same time to panic and having everybody shadowed when, as it turns out, there may be danger in all quarters. Here you have to give the U.S. President his due. Having left the FBI and the Justice Department to get to the bottom of this specific crime, Clinton concentrated on nationwide measures to prevent such crimes from happening.

Unlike the congressmen who are still ruled by old stereotypes and talk about preventing potential terrorists from entering the United States from abroad, the President is talking about extending the powers of the FBI and other special services in the fight against extremist groups within the United States itself. Here he has no fear of rebuke for limiting civil rights: "I do not think that we should give up our freedoms," Clinton stated in an interview, "but I think that we need greater discipline and urgency in the regular investigation of the serious threats which stand in the way of these freedoms." Here, it is reported, it is not only a question of increasing the FBI's staff but of bringing in armed forces to maintain public order. Apart from this, the President considers it possible to prevent or restrict access to materials which could be used in terrorist acts. In particular, he suggests marking them in such a way that the purchaser knows that it will be possible at any time to trace where they were obtained and identify him.

As we see, having come up against a real and serious threat, the United Stated is already taking the first steps to counteract it. These steps deserve our attention.

Further Reportage on Kozyrev Visit to Washington

Opposes Plans to Turn G-7 Into G-8

LD2804114795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1025 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, April 28 (Interfax)—Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev opposed rash plans to turn the G-7 into G-8 club.

Talking to newsmen in Washington Thursday, Kozyrev said that from the political point of view the G-7 club had already turned into a club of eight leading nations because "Russian involvement was a must in political matters." "De facto, Kozyrev said, not a single problem can be settled without Russia."

"From the point of view of economics, the transformation of the G-7 into a G-8 club would translate into Russian involvement into financial and economic ventures launched by the leaders of the industrialized world," Kozyrev told newsmen.

And, also from the point of view of economics, this is something that Russia cannot yet afford. It has no intention of spending extra money just for the sake of joining the G-7 club, Kozyrev who prefers seeing Russia as a country that has a hand in policy-making and maintains a dialog on economic issues with the Big Seven, said Thursday in Washington.

Nonetheless, "as early as next year life could again be expected to pose this same question before Russia," Kozyrev said.

Comments on Reactor Sale to Iran

LD2804234795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2313 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Apr, (ITAR-TASS)—Russia does not intend to abandon its cooperation with Iran in the nuclear field and sees any attempt to

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speak to it in the language of threats as fruitless, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is on a visit here, said. Speaking in the Advanced International Studies center of Washington's Johns Hopkins University on 28 April, he said that Russia would not take any steps enabling Iran to obtain the potential to manufacture nuclear weapons, which is clearly the U.S.'s fear in opposing this transaction. As for the sale of one or two nuclear reactors to Tehran, this is being done in accordance with the "strict guarantees of the IAEA which apply not only to this transaction but to all of Iran's activities in the nuclear field."

Kozyrev expressed consternation at the fact that "a reactor of exactly the same type—light-water—has been recommended for North Korea in order to keep it from using nuclear materials in the production of weapons and to reduce the risk of nuclear arms proliferation." In the minister's opinion, the option whereby Iran buys a Russian light-water reactor is better and safer from the point of view of nuclear arms nonproliferation than the option whereby Russia dissolves its agreement and Iran "attempts to buy considerably more dangerous equipment elsewhere." "Therefore I do not see any reasons why we should abandon the sale of the reactors that is being conducted in accordance with strict international guarantees," the Russian foreign minister said.

Pledges To Uphold Russians' Rights

LD2904080495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Russia will protect the rights of Russian and Russian-speaking population as well as other national minorities, living in former Soviet republics, said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev during his speech at the Johns Hopkins international research centre in Washington on Friday.

However, Russia flatly rejects any use of force or any other levers of pressure or diktat, including economic, to interfere in domestic affairs of those states, noted the minister who is now on a visit here.

At the same time, Kozyrev stressed that "there is one sphere which is not covered by the principle of non-interference in compliance with standards and agreements of the OSCE, members of which include former Soviet republics".

"These are human rights and rights of national minorities. Therefore, we speak openly on this issue," Kozyrev underlined.

He called as legitimate apprehensions expressed in the framework of the OSCE concerning the situation with human rights in Chechnya. "The OSCE mission is just now in Chechnya and is preoccupied exactly with these issues," the minister continued.

Russia, as well as all other OSCE member states, has a legitimate right to express concern over the situation with human rights and the rights of national minorities in other countries.

"We are just preoccupied with this when we say that we are very worried over the position of Russian-speaking population, including Slav, and sometimes members of the indeginous nationality, Jews and Poles," the minister stressed.

"We want them to enjoy equal rights, be it the Baltics or any other place. From my point of view, this is a fully legitimate position. We shall continue to insist that these people enjoy equal human, civil and economic rights, irrespective of whether they are Russians or not.

"However, this concerns, above all, Russian-speaking and Russian population, since it has become a subject for discrimination."

Stresses Values of International 'Partnership'

LD2904095995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0145 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Kikilo, Viktor Khrekov and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Apr—"Our differences with the West on certain questions and our desire to defend our own interests prove that Russia is turning into a normal democratic state", said Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is visiting here. He was speaking on Friday at the Johns Hopkins International Research Center in Washington.

The minister said that Russia wants to build its foreign policy "on the basis of national, and not party or group interests". Moreover, he said, "the logic of Russia's actions in the foreign political arena is dictated by the changes taking place in the world", which has moved from being bipolar in the "cold war" years to multipolar. Now, Andrey Kozyrev went on, the world "is uniting the various and varied national interests of different countries". And if one accepts this as a reality and rejects the "logic of diktat by a single superpower", then "one is left with nothing other than how to seek a balance of interests". "This is what we mean when we proclaim the defense of Russia's national interests", he said. "The fundamental principle of our foreign policy is partnership, and not confrontation".

"Russia was shocked by the evil terrorist outrage in Oklahoma city," the Russian minister continued. "But in Russia we also have to face similar problems. Armed extermism and separatism, organized crime and aggressive mercenaries - all these things should not divide but, on the contrary, should unite democratic forces just as we were united 50 years ago when we fought against fascism and aggressive forces in Europe."

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Kozyrev described the development of relations between Russia and the United States in the past three or four years as successful. He said that the agreements concluded by the two sides on reducing nuclear and conventional weapons were "unprecedented in scale". "The Russian-American partnership has become a reality," he said. "We have not just formulated its fundamental principles but we have also learned how to find constructive solutions to problems and disagreements which arise. To me this is the main evidence of the maturity which our relations are acquiring."

The Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs said he is convinced that the forthcoming Russian-American summit in Moscow "will strengthen the basis for bilateral cooperation even more". He said that the motive for the summit - the 50th anniversary of the Victory itself has a deep symbolic meaning. "Russia and United States were allies in World War II, fighting against the common enemy. Today the two countries should realise their historic responsibility and become allies in the name of the common aim of building a stable, safe and democratic world," Andrey Kozyrev said.

Finally, the Russian minister answered a number of questions. In particular, he confirmed that Russia has no intention to submit to U.S. pressure and refuse to cooperate with Iran in the sphere of nuclear energy. "I do not see reasons why we should abandon the sale of reactors which is being conducted in compliance with international guarantees," Kozyrev said. He also dismissed accusations of "new imperialism" in relations with the former Soviet republics currently being levelled at Moscow as groundless. At the same time he stated that Russia reserves the right to defend the interests of the Russian population living there.

Interviewed on VE Day Celebrations

MM0105104195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Maksim Chikin, followed by undated interview with Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev in Washington by Yelena Ovcharenko, followed by "Editorial Postscript" by Sergey Maslov under the general heading: "Are the Gentlemen Selling Tickets for Red Square?"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Chikin report] France Sees Another Resistance Movement

Paris—Hundreds of French intellectuals and European Parliament deputies led by philosopher Andre Glucksman, lawyer Michel Laval, and Patrick Eberhard, honorary president of the "Medecins du Monde" humanitarian organization, urged the leaders of the countries intending to attend the 9 May celebrations in Moscow to turn down the invitation. Glucksman wrote in the general statement: "I think that celebrating this date amid the remains of Chechnya would be an insult to the memory of those who gave their lives in the fight against fascism." The signatories to the appeal include Guenter Grass, Umberto Eco, Nana Mouskouri, and Leonid Plyushch.

At various times the French intelligentsia and public figures have already called if not for a boycott then for Western leaders to tighten their position on the Chechen issue. Two weeks ago Cherbourg Mayor Jean-Pierre Godefroy even gave orders for the Russian flag to be lowered in his city's port. As he announced in a letter to the Russian president: "We are taking this step with great regret, since we are historically bound to your country by ties of friendship and respect." [Chikin report ends]

Minister's Opinion

Washington—Our special correspondent asked Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is visiting Washington, to comment on the French intellectuals' mass protest.

[Ovcharenko] Andrey Vladimirovich, this may not be the last incident. Is it not time for the Russian Foreign Ministry to take a tougher stance on the anniversary question—without worrying about the West?

[Kozyrev] We must look at this holiday in a broad historical context. It is like life: Clashes and disagreements occur, but before an anniversary or New Year people rise above them and try to take a broader view. Thus the Victory anniversary presents an opportunity for politicians to take a broad view of relations: how to carry on developing them and how to preserve the states' alliance?

I think that this was the broad decision taken by President Clinton and his counterparts in France and Italy—incidentally, both the latter were members of the Resistance. You think that the U.S. President delayed answering whether he would go to Moscow or not. But that is not how I see it; I do not see this as "delay." It is just that this is not an easy business. The leaders of the allied countries have their own veterans and they will be having their own celebrations in their own capitals. And that has to be combined with a trip to Moscow.

For instance, after a ceremony at Arlington Cemetery President Clinton is crossing the Atlantic right away, at night, contrary to all recommendations made by specialists and doctors. Usually such visits are gauged almost down to the minute, in order to ensure that the schedule coincides with the most favorable bioperiods for working. Thus he has a "sprint marathon" ahead of him.

Will there be groups of malcontents? Let me call them "groups of marginals"—I would not like to use the word "extremists." Or there will be groups of superdemocrats. There may even be grounds for their arguments. But to apply short-term arguments to a major historical event is to discount the memory of the millions who died and the millions who were saved. And to fail to see the future. [Kozyrev interview ends]

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Editorial Postscript

It is not that important whether they come or not. The Western leaders who are preparing for their travels are wise enough to realize that it is not a question of simply "having the honor of being there." The question is more acute than that: having the conscience to be there....

No matter what is said about the allied landing on the French beaches, no one would take seriously the idea of turning Normandy into a great "Malaya Zemlya" [memorial complex at Novorossiysk]. It was not in France or anywhere in the land of Shakespeare that Hamlet's question for all mankind—"To be or not to be?"—was decided. Hitler lost three-fourths of the Wehrmacht's potential on the Eastern Front. The allies—all together—were left to harass the other one-fourth. "Our people tend to dislike French ways [nefrantszistyy]," the well-known writer states. I think that Francois Mitterrand would hardly agree with him. After all, we spent virtually three years fighting on the principle of one for all....

Will they come or not.... More importantly, what will they bring with them? Will they celebrate with us or just "attend the celebrations"? Come for the occasion, so to speak. This can most likely be expected of Bill Clinton and Helmut Kohl. The federal chancellor may possibly come along with words of reconciliation.

But he may "approach" our leadership with a view to its reconciling itself... to the plans for NATO's eastward expansion—i.e. up to the borders of the CIS. Very much as if a neighbor were to roll a gun up to your back porch and at the same time genially suggest: "Let us forget old grievances, shall we?"

I just do not know whether one can rank among old grievances the recent sensational affair involving Germany's BND intelligence service, which organized the import of what was allegedly Russian plutonium to Munich. We may not have yet fully appreciated the significance of this provocation. This action to discredit another state in peacetime is unprecedented, at any rate in the 20th century. Especially in relations between countries that have by no means declared themselves hostile to one another. Clearly the BND has made it contribution to founding—or rather justifying—new NATO bastions in the East. And all this was, after all, planned even before Chechnya....

At the upcoming Moscow summit Bill Clinton will most likely lead the NATO march eastward, which it is intended to carry out without a single shot. If only the 50th anniversary of the Victory could be the occasion for a joint renunciation of the past. With no renunciation of the future at the same time. At least, of a future of good relations, which seem to have only just begun to take shape.

Report Describes Mood During Visit

MM2804205295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Vladimir Nadeyin: "Coolness in the Reception Rooms Is the Harbinger of a Cold Peace: America Has Stopped Applauding Andrey Kozyrev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—Over the past years Andrey Kozyrev has mastered the difficult art of representing a country which organically combines the status of a great power with billions of other people's money, money without which we cannot make ends meet. However, on this occasion the task has been an even more difficult one. He has had to repair relations with morose Americans who are tired of trying to persuade the Kremlin to accept the inevitable.

During a conversation with Russian journalists which took place in one of the safest—from the bugging standpoint—rooms of our embassy the minister described the articles which have appeared in THE NEW YORK TIMES as prophesies of doom. Thomas Friedman, a rising star of American journalism, used a well-known Yeltsin expression when he predicted the inevitability of a "cold peace" in relations between Russian and the West. It is difficult to describe this as hot stuff, as this standpoint has been voiced by many politicians—from the moderate Vladimir Lukin to the immoderate liberal, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Minister Kozyrev, for many years the unchallenged favorite of the American mass media, arrived for the first time in an America as cold and alienated as only that country can be when it is losing faith and interest. Clearly succumbing to arguments drawn from General Grachev's arsenal, the foreign minister said with a sense of solace that our country has an army, missiles, and nuclear weapons to protect our national interests.

Expressed in diplomatic language, resource to such arguments is described as a gesture of desperation.

Not so much time has elapsed since the joint session of the two houses of Congress leapt to its feet 46 times to give Boris Yeltsin tumultuous applause, but the Americans are not in the mood to clap today. Open annoyance breaks through the professional courtesies every now and again.

The Americans are annoyed that the Russians have been prepared to do a deal over the sale of reactors to Iran. To the Americans that kind of approach is shabby and tawdry. If the Russian leadership believes the secret documents which Secretary of Defense William Perry brought to Moscow, it should immediately break off all nuclear contacts with Iran and thank the American long and hard, looking upon him kindly for having fearlessly and free of charge shared such hard-won secrets.

If we see nothing remarkable in what the Americans have dug up, if we have more reliable information, then it is the direct duty of the government to make an evaluation of these documents.

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This has not been done. On the other hand, a stream of charges has issued from the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry claiming that the Americans have invented their "secret information" specially in order to push Russia away from the promising nuclear markets of Iran.

"You are being offensive, minister!"—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry would have said at this to Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov. The whole Iranian deal is such small change, given America's huge turnover of money and the fat budget of the Pentagon itself, that an official of Perry's stature would in no circumstances soil his hands with such a bagatelle.

Every intelligence service can get it wrong, and the CIA is not infallible. However, the stakes in this game are so great that one cannot just blithely dismiss classified information. The prospect of an unpredictable nuclear neighbor is so dreadful that it should not be Washington trying to persuade Moscow but the other way round altogether. Instead of this, Andrey Kozyrev began demonstrating immediately after his arrival very great flexibility, promising to think about Tehran if we are allowed to get involved in the construction of reactors in North Korea, which are paid for in the hard currency of Japan and South Korea.

From the very moment he landed in the United States Andrey Kozyrev has in a very skillful and relaxed manner created the illusion of mutual recriminations and mutual concessions. The recriminations concern the incidentals, the concessions the essence. The Russian has attacked the plans to create ABM weapons in the United States. Given that neither the Congress nor the administration has made any decisions, the administration could pick up on this tone and produce a successful deal: Conceding something that is imaginary while obtaining something that is real.

But the point is that the Americans are fed up with these games. Secretary of State Christopher, scorning the conventions of the past, issued a direct warning to Kozyrev that Russia should not move away from the West—it will be worse for it. He should perhaps have adopted a more edifying tone, however, in America they are sure that President Clinton will obtain all he wants in Moscow and will get Russian to understand that NATO poses no threat to it whatsoever and also get it to abandon the sale of reactors to Iran.

And even the stern dressing-down which President Yeltsin delivered to Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy, Georgiy Mamedov, for allegedly making excessive concessions to the West is regarded in Washington chiefly from the standpoint of the allocation of duties among the upper echelons. Kozyrev and the Foreign Ministry have to engage in desperate bargaining, displaying firmness and intractability, while Boris Yeltsin will wave his handkerchief at the finale and everything will be sorted out.

Although Minister Kozyrev has ardently protested the view that the level of American-Russian relations has fallen to its lowest point since the August putsch, listing the disarmament benefits of partnership, love, as was observed in a now-forgotten novel, is the product of the mutual nonresistance of the parties. And even if one party, the American party, foresees the advent of a "cold peace," the other party will have to accept that assessment even if it is consumed with love.

Andrey Kozyrev does not want to preside over the funeral banquet of the Russian-American partnership. He prefers to regard these relations simply as "mature," seeing the conflicts and the compromise resolution of them as the most important indicator of that maturity.

Not so long ago THE NEW YORK TIMES was among the few papers which admired Kozyrev even after he stunned the diplomatic world in Stockholm by a piece of amateur dramatics, pretending to be a nationalist for 30 minutes. Today play-acting is pointless. Since Chechnya, Andrey Kozyrev has found it tough fighting for his former image of a young intellectual steeped in Western culture.

Andrey Kozyrev has described his present visit as successful. If this is not a diplomatic figure of speech, but a reflection of his true conviction, we are bound to win.

Development of Power Industry With U.S. Discussed

LD2904120595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Russian and American specialists completed joint research work on versions for the development of the Russian power industry.

An appropriate document was approved by the Coordination Committee to conduct joint research work on versions for the development of the Russian power industry and will be submitted, in June, to the energy committee of the joint Russian-American commission for economic and technological cooperation (Gore-Chernomyrdin commission).

The conclusions of the research, which were examined at a meeting of the coordination committee held in Moscow on Wednesday [26 April] and Thursday under the aegis of the Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry, the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and the U.S. State Department, single out priority areas for the development of the Russian power industry for the next 15 years.

They point to the importance of supporting several priority programmes in the power industry by the financial community over the next few years, including more effective use of electricity, the development of the Russian united power grid by expanding networks and increasing their carrying capacity, modernisation and

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reconstruction of fuel power station, construction of new power plants running on gas with steam-gas units, etc.

According to experts' estimates, the analysis of the situation in the Russian power industry showed that the efficiency of electricity use should be regarded as a top priority matter.

There are great possibilities for energy saving in the Russian economy. It is possible to save 29,000 million kWh by the year 2000 and 112,000 million kWh by 2010. Additional investments, totalling 2.5-3 billion U.S dollars, will be needed to implement a programme for raising the efficiency of electricity use by 2000.

State Duma Delegation Ends Visit to Japan

LD2904124195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Andrey Varlamov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO April 29 (Itar-Tass)—A Russian State Duma delegation led by chairman of the house Ivan Rybkin finished its three-day visit to Japan today.

Before leaving Osaka to Hawaii at the invitation of U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, Rybkin recounted the official part of the visit, including meetings with Emperor Akihito, the Japanese prime and foreign ministers and leaders of the parliament, to a news conference in the Japanese National Press Club.

The parliament chairman said this visit "implements paragraph III of the Russian-Japanese Tokyo Declaration of 1993 on the need for the broadening of political dialogue at all levels".

During his meetings with Japan's leadership, Rybkin quoted Russian and Japanese diplomats as saying that the peace agreement between the two nations "is 95 percent ready".

Rybkin promised that as parliament chairman he would contribute his effort to setting up a law base for broader economic cooperation between Russia and Japan.

He said "there would be no obstacles to the ratification of respective agreements" from the Russian law-makers.

Rybkin gave assurances that the State Duma would pass already by May a product sharing law, a key statute for the international project of the development of Sakhalin shelf resources.

The Japanese side was keen on the developments of Aum Shinrikyo cult sect in Russia.

Rybkin told the news conference that he thought unfair the criticism of Russia for what the sect was doing on its soil.

He voices regret that Japan's security services had not warned the Russian leadership about the character of the sect's activities.

The Russian parliamentary delegation includes chairman of the State Duma Property, Privatisation and Economy Committee Sergey Burkov; Budget Committee chairman Mikhail Zadornov, International Affairs Committee chairman Vladimir Lukin and Defence Committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov.

Rybkin Arrives in Hawaii

LD0105000395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2339 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 30 (Interfax)—Russian parliament deputies have discussed with the command of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific more efficient military cooperation in the region, says the report of the Russian parliament press service about the beginning of the working trip by a Russian Duma delegation led by Ivan Rybkin to the United States at the invitation of Vice-President Albert Gore and the U.S.-Russian Business Council.

During the first stopover in the Hawaii State, members of the delegation also took part in the celebrations devoted to the 50th anniversary of allied victory in World War II. Rybkin together with a representative of the U.S. Navy placed a wreath to the memorial complex to the U.S. seamen in the base Perl Harbor.

The delegation was received by the leadership of the State, met with representatives of the local public and the Russian community.

Then, the Russian delegates, en-route to Washington, arrived in San-Francisco where they met with leading businessmen of the Western Hemisphere.

Chubays, Delegation Conclude Visit to U.S.

LD2904093095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON April 29 (Itar-Tass)—A Russian delegation headed by First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Anatoliy Chubays has concluded its visit to the United States. It participated in the spring session of the boards of managers of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which was held here, and held talks with heads of financial departments of the G-7 countries, the U.S. Vice-President, the Secretary of Commerce and U.S. senators.

"We begin the second stage of privatisation which will be one of the main directions of the programme of radical reforms in 1995," Anatoliy Chubays said on Friday, speaking at the American-Russian business council in Washington.

"We intend to sell a part of state shares of the United energy system of Russia, the communication industry

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and the oil and gas sector. According to preliminary plans, the government will sell about nine per cent out of its 41 per cent of the charter capital of the Russian joint-stock company "Gazprom".

"There are real opportunities in Russia now for restoring the economic growth and new chances for investors and entrepreneurs, including American ones."

Comments on Currency Stabilization

LD2904163695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 29 (Interfax)—If the ruble becomes stable soon, the Russian Central Bank may think of lowering the rate of refinancing, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays declared in an interview with Interfax on a plane, flying back to Moscow from Washington.

In the U.S. capital, Chubays held talks at the IMF and the World Bank and met with the finance ministers and top bankers of the seven industrialized countries, as well as with leading American politicians, including Vice-President Albert Gore.

He said that "changing the rate of refinancing is the Central Bank's prerogative." "We have already discussed this problem, and have not reached a single view so far, but the question of lowering the Central Bank's refinancing rate will be on the agenda soon."

Chubays regards as a sign of the Russian currency stabilization the fact that the flow of dollar cash into Russia has sharply declined. "Even fairly recently, commercial banks brought in dollars by whole planes to meet the requirements of currency exchanges", Chubays noted, adding that "in March, the volume of dollars coming into Russia dropped, and it looks as if this trend will stay in April."

Moscow Open About Interest in Iraq Cooperation

LD2804160195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (PIA-Interfax)—Moscow has not made and is not making secret of its interest in further cooperation with Baghdad, Russia's Deputy Fuel and Energy Minister Petr Nidzelskiy, who visited Iraq in the composition of the ministry's delegation, declared to journalists Friday.

In the course of negotiations headed by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik the parties signed an agreement on development of two large deposits in Iraq, Northern Rumeila and Western Kurna in Iraq's south. About 100 million tonnes of oil can be extracted on these oil fields over the whole period of its exploitation.

Speaking about prospects of the Russian-Iraqi relations after lifting international sanctions against Iraq, Nidzelskiy pointed out that "currently the parties develop new forms of cooperation which provide for Russia's participation in new projects in Iraq."

In particular, Baghdad is interested in supplies of Russian power engineering equipment and production of machinery construction. Russia and Iraq have also signed a protocol on cooperation in the sphere of oil and chemical projects and oil processing.

A source which was in the composition of the Russian delegation during the talks in Baghdad reported to the Petroleum Information Agency that issues of military cooperation "have not been discussed."

The next consultations on economic cooperation will be held late May in the frameworks of the visit of the Iraqi delegation to the Russian Federation.

Iraq's total recoverable oil reserves amount to more than 100 billion barrels (about 16 billion tonnes).

Edward Lee Howard Denies Being Russian Agent

LD2804163195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Olga Semyonova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Ex-CIA staffer and current dweller of Russia Edward Lee Howard told an exclusive Itar-Tass interview he would welcome a trial to get rid of accusations of high treason but does not trust U.S. justice. Now that the real KGB agent in the CIA, Aldrich Ames, was identified and it became clear he is the one responsible for failures of American agents in 1980s, Howard can tell he "met the first KGB agent when he came to the Soviet embassy in Helsinki."

Back in 1986 approximately a year after his escape from the United States, Howard illegally came to America. He proved this with a photo copy of a fake passport prepared for him by the KGB.

In 1983 CIA staffer Edward Lee Howard, who was 32 years old then, did not pass an obligatory lie detector test and was offered to quit the secret service. The proposal was taken without regret. Howard is a graduate of two prestigious universities with a fundamental knowledge of economy. He is an analyst who worked for several large firms before his three-years-long experience in the CIA. He was also a staffer of the State Department, and managed to find a good job after quitting the secret service.

In 1985 Howard learnt he was under FBI surveillance of suspicion of working for the KGB. Being aware of the fact the Soviet intelligence had arrested several high-ranking CIA men in Moscow, Howard understood that he could be made responsible for that. He viewed the escape from the United States as the only correct decision and did it successfully with the help of his wife, who was also a former staffer of the CIA.

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Howard decided to appeal to the Soviet embassy in Helsinki when understood he will not escape the surveillance of the CIA and the FBI on his own. "Although I was not a Russian agent, the Russians showed understanding and attention," said Howard.

He agreed to work as a KGB consultant on condition of breaking his cooperation anytime and leaving from the Soviet Union. This condition was accepted and the illegal trip to the United States to see his wife was made with the help of his Russian colleagues, who however thought it was unreasonable.

This episode described by Howard in his "Safe House" book prevented him from visiting the United States and facing a trial. If the court strips him of former accusations, the FBI and the CIA will achieve his conviction either for illegal entry of the state or something else, believes Howard.

Intelligence Agents Abroad Reduced Since 1991

LD2804212795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28, (Interfax)—The number of Russian External Intelligence Service (SVR) personnel abroad has reduced by 30 percent since August 1991, SVR director's press-secretary Tatyana Samolis said in an interview on Friday.

Mrs Samolis would not comment on reports by Western news agencies quoting Der Spiegel magazine that the German federal agency for the protection of the constitution had submitted to the Foreign Ministry a list of 165 Russian secret service agents to be expelled from the country.

"Foreign agencies are quoting a still unpublished edition of Der Spiegel magazine. In a situation like this any commentaries are untimely", Mrs Samolis said.

Nor would Mrs Samolis answer the question whether the presence of such a number of Russian agents in Germany was possible. "It is the rule of all intelligence services around the world to avoid disclosing their strength", Mrs Samolis said.

Group Discusses Lifting Sanctions on Belgrade

LD2804175795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—A top-ranking official from the Russian Foreign Ministry reported in an interview with Interfax Friday that the issue on "what sanctions and for what reason to take off from Belgrade" are in the center of attention at the sitting of the Contact Group on Bosnia held in Paris on the level of political directors.

The source said that the problem of prolonging the ceasefire agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina which is to expire on April 30 "does not dominate at the meeting." "Under the present situation members of the Contact Group can only call on the parties to prolong truce and nothing more. One needs other, more resolute moves on other directions as well," he noted.

The diplomat underlined that "now the trades are going on around the sanctions and about possible exchanges. If the parties find mutual understanding on this issue then one can start solving the problem of truce and of fate of the UN forces in Bosnia."

"Currently more and more countries say that Bosnia can enter the next winter without the presence of "blue helmets" on its territory," the source said.

He reported that "there are still certain discrepancies in Russia's and America's approaches to the problem of exchange and sanctions."

The diplomat did not rule out that it will be possible to near these positions at the negotiations between Russian and American Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton in Moscow on May 10.

According to the source, out of all members of the Contact Group France supports Russia's point of view and Germany occupies a closer position.

The diplomat said the Contact Group on the level of political directors would meet again after Paris before the meeting of the foreign ministries of the member-states of this group.

The Contact Group includes Russia, the U.S., France, Great Britain and Germany.

Agreement With UAE To Cooperate in Space Exploration

LD2804162595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Anna Bakina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Russia and the United Arab Emirates will soon pull their efforts in space exploration in accordance with an agreement reached here today by visiting UAE representative Lieutenant-General Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, Russian commander of the Aero-Space forces Vladimir Ivanov and armament head of the Russian Armed Forces Anatoliy Sitkov, a source close to the space industry heads told Itar-Tass today.

The UAE official has visited the main ground mission control center in Golitsino-2, its command post and the control center of the Russian global navigation rescue system of GLONASS. The system mean for search and rescue of aircraft and vessels interested the shaykh most.

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Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Chairs Meeting of Electoral Bloc

LD2904131795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Shtorkh, Andrey Serov, Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—The organizing committee of the electoral bloc being formed on the initiative of the Russian prime minister held its first meeting in the countryside government residence at Volynskoye. The meeting was chaired by the prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin is the head of the organizing committee, with the first deputy prime minister Oleg Soskovets and administration head of Samara Region Konstantin Titov as his deputies.

Participants in the meeting stated that the principal aim and goal of the election bloc was to achieve sociopolitical stability in Russia through the 1995 election to the State Duma. The initiative group of the bloc consists of more than 80 people, including Russian cabinet ministers, the leaders of autonomous republics and administration heads, managers of major industrial enterprises such as ZIL, AvtoVAZ and Gazprom, as well as academics and cultural personalities. The Party of Russian Unity and Accord headed by deputy prime minister Sergey Shakhray has voiced its support for the bloc.

Members of the organizing committee noted in their speeches that Russia should have a serious and responsible parliament consisting of deputies from large, reputable associations, with no place for extremists. Besides, one of the most important tasks of the election bloc will be to gain majority in the State Duma to ensure the parliament's stability and its responsible work.

The speakers stressed that Russia should have a responsible and professional government based on the majority in the parliament. With a state power that does not have a united policy and a united will, the society can become hostage to intrigues, noisy politicians and extremists, the speakers said. The foremost task facing the election bloc's organizing committee will be the preparation of the founding congress of Viktor Chernomyrdin's election bloc which will take place on 12 May this year in Moscow.

Further on Organizational Committee

LD2904165595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 29 (Interfax)—Opening the sitting of the organizational committee of a new pre-election bloc in the Moscow state residence Volynskoe on Saturday, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin declared that the major task of this wide public movement is "to establish public-political and economic stability in the country."

In his words, the upcoming elections to the State Duma scheduled for this December grant a possibility for laying the foundation of this stability. Chernomyrdin said that "we need a serious parliament made up of deputies from large parties and movements." He is convinced that "there should be no place for extremists in such a parliament."

In addition, "all nations and peoples, regions of the country, children of all Russian lands should be represented" in the new parliament. Chernomyrdin underlined that "a firm majority" should be formed in a new State Duma on which the government could rely in its activity. Representatives of "extremist left and extremist right orientations" should remain in minority, he said.

Chernomyrdin reported that certain forces use the organization of a new movement headed by him "for driving a wedge" into mutual relations between the president and the government. Chernomyrdin specially underlined that Russian President Boris Yeltsin "knows quite well about formation of a new pre-election movement and approves this work."

Chernomyrdin noted that the movement must have its program and it is necessary to thoroughly work it out. He believes that relations between the election movement and the government must have the character of "critical solidarity" so that the Cabinet will be able to make practical conclusions on the basis of the remarks of this wide public bloc.

Chernomyrdin believes that the new program should primarily reflect additional measures in order to improve the state of veterans, women, and youth, to strengthen fight with crime, to reform the Russian army, and to raise agricultural sector.

Chernomyrdin recognized that a flow of critics fell upon founders of this pre-election bloc from the moment of its formation, several opponents call it "a party of power." However, he believes that this is a normal phenomenon and one should make practical conclusions minding these critical remarks.

Chernomyrdin said that the constituent congress of the movement should be held before May 12.

The first sitting of the organizational committee elected Chernomyrdin chairman of the committee and Vice Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and head of the Samara regional administration Konstantin Titov—his deputies. It was decided to hold constituent congress of the movement on May 12 this year.

Movement Forms 'Steering Committee'

LD2904163495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 29 (Interfax)—The new electoral movement led by Viktor Chernomyrdin formed a steering committee.

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First Deputy Prime-Minister Oleg Soskovets and the governor of the Samara region Konstantin Titov became Chernomyrdin's deputies.

Anatoliy Chubays, Sergey Shakhray, Cabinet chief-of-staff Vladimir Babichev, Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan, Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak, the Minister for Emergency Situations Sergey Shoygu and the Minister of the Railroads Gennadiy Fadeyev will sit on the steering committee.

The country's big industrial enterprises are represented by the general directors of KamAZ, AvtoVAZ, Uralmashzavod, ZIL and Magnitogorsk steel plant, along with others. The president of the Russian joint stock company Gazprom Rem Viyakhirev will also sit on the steering committee.

The Presidents of Tartarstan, Bashkortostan, Kabardino-Balkariya and North Ossetia, as well as the governors of the Astrakhan, Orenburg and Oryol regions are members of the same committee.

The Russian legislature is represented by the leaders of the Stability and New Regional Policies factions Aleksey Levushkin and Vladimir Medvedev.

Cultural workers Lyudmila Zykina, Irina Arkhipova, Aleksey Batalov, Vyacheslav Tikhonov and Aleksandr Kalyagin have also been chosen to sit on the steering committee.

Chernomyrdin on Funding for Bloc

LD2904205095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2011 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the funding of his election bloc will be carried out "strictly within the framework of the Constitution."

Meeting journalists during the break in the session of the Organising Committee of the new bloc on Saturday, Chernomyrdin told Itar-Tass that "the government will be under strict control and we will have no privileges with regard to other participants in the election struggle."

"We will count only on what is allowed by the Constitution and will spend that much. The use of unauthorised funds is out of the question. No one will go for that and this is unacceptable to us," he said.

The premier said he received many telephone calls in support of his new bloc. "I received many telephone calls today, too... I did not expect such a prompt reaction. In fact, we have not said much yet. We are only beginning to say, but many have already decided to support the movement... I am very happy about that. This is how it should be. In the election struggle, we will lean on our supporters," he said.

The bloc will be seeking to reach social and political stability in Russia through parliamentary elections in 1995. The bloc's initiative group comprises over 80 people, including Russian ministers, heads of autonomous republics and local administrations, directors of major enterprises, such as ZIL, AvtoVAZ and Gazprom, as well as scholars and cultural figures.

The bloc has been supported by the Party of Russian Unity and Accord led by Vice-Prime Minister Sergei Shakhray.

The bloc's major task will be to form such a majority in the State Duma which will ensure a stable and responsible operation of the parliament.

Chernomyrdin called on political movements and parties of Russia to join his election bloc, which may be named "Our Home Russia."

Summing up the concept of his new bloc, the premier said that its motto is a predictable policy and predictable laws.

"All ultra-right and ultra-left forces will be inevitably pushed to the sidelines of the social and political life after our movement has gained momentum and after the other constructive bloc, which is being parallally established by (State Duma Chairman) Ivan Rybkin, has developed," Chernomyrdin said.

This will provide firm guarantees that there will be no new "revolution" in 1996 or in the next century, he said.

Chernomyrdin Interviewed on New Election Bloc

LD3004202995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Apr 95

[From the 'Sunday Program']

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] How to carry the burden of social and economic problems and yet to reach the straight road of civilization? That is when everybody is pulling in different directions. As everyone knows, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin proposed a way out of this deadlock, when last week he announced the setting up of a new pre-election movement provisionally entitled Our Home is Russia, which will be open for all like-minded people to join. The prime minister said extremists will now have no chance of success.

At the government's country residence yesterday, the first meeting of the organizational committee of the new pre-election bloc was held. Chernomyrdin said the following to Oleg Shommer:

[Begin recording] [Shommer] Viktor Stepanovich, some time ago you coined a phrase which has almost become a maxim now: We wanted things to get better, but the result of our efforts was no better than usual. [Chernomyrdin laughs] Do you think the destiny of the new movement will be much the same?

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[Chernomyrdin] I understand what you mean. But what we have now is a result of long-running preparations. I must tell you again why I have now opted for this step. After all I have plenty of other things to occupy myself with. I understand and know what we are taking upon ourselves. We are criticized and we provoke even more attacks ourselves. That is natural. I must tell you that one of the issues we discussed at the meeting was this: our efforts will not end with announcements, slogans, and oratory. That will not happen. God forbid me and all the participants in the discussion from saying that the setting of the bloc is the achievement, and with this society has been stabilized. For goodness sake, nobody is saying that. A lot of work will need to be done to reach stabilization in society. That is the point of our movement, and that is why we need a parliament that will get society to make a way forward, forward in the direction of unification and stability. Russia is our home, after all. And in our home we must get all things right.

[Shommer] What is your attitude to the view that the movement is a sounding board to check the reaction of society and then to decide whether elections should be held?

[Chernomyrdin] My impression is that some people want leaders to announce that we are against the elections. That is absolute nonsense. I have never entertained such a thought. I even think that to suppose this is immoral. We have a Constitution. Why must we, Russians, always act in violation of it? Regardless of whether we get support, elections must take place.

[Shommer] Will the image of the prime minister change, now that you have acquired a new challenge: having been a professional economist, you have now become a professional politician?

[Chernomyrdin] Of course, this is not simple, and particularly for me. I do not like to talk for long periods of time. My vacation is different, as life has shown me. But things must be sorted out in this area. So I will have to learn, and to learn from professionals. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shakhray's Party To Join Chernomyrdin Bloc

LD2904162495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 29 (Interfax)—Russia's Deputy Premier and leader of the Russian Unity and Accord Party (RUAP) Sergey Shakhray has told Interfax that, in accordance with a decision taken on Friday [28 April] by the presidium of the party's federal council, his party will join the electoral bloc led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as a collective member. The rules of the electoral bloc also provide for individual membership, he added.

Shakhray was interviewed by Interfax on Saturday at the Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow, where the party initiated a day of work for the nation with a view to cleaning the city on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazism. As Shakhray said, its initiative was supported in virtually all parts of Russia, where people gathered in the framework of the All-Russia action initiated by RUAP.

As Shakhray said, later today the organizing committee of the electoral bloc led by Chernomyrdin will gather in Volynskoye outside Moscow to determine where and when the movement will hold its congress and form its organizational structures.

Shakhray believes that the movement's leading bodies will include "not cabinet ministers, but professionals capable of ensuring preparations for the upcoming elections to the State Duma in terms of information and analysis."

In Shakhray's view, Chernomyrdin's initiative concerning the forming of the bloc was very timely, since it "will make it possible for the political circles seeking to liquidate political instability to join their efforts." As he said, "this factor has turned into a major obstacle to economic progress."

According to Shakhray, the electoral bloc will bank primarily on those voters who remained passive during the previous elections to the State Duma held in December of 1993. At that time a great role was played by the votes of politically active citizens, who included largely those who were dissatisfied with something or let down, Shakhray said.

If the efforts to enhance the electoral activity of the overwhelming majority of Russia's population are successful, the Chernomyrdin bloc will be able to collect 30% of the vote, Shakhray said. "The hope to collect 50 of the vote is unrealistic," he noted.

Shakhray believes that average Russians will judge the bloc largely by the government's performance. At the elections an important role will be played by the various areas. That is why the new movement will nominate its representatives in all one-mandate districts, Shakhray said.

Shakhray on RLDP Participation in Chernomyrdin Bloc

LD2904203795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2026 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Vice-Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray said the participation of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in a new election bloc led by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is out of the question.

In an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass on Saturday, Shakhray said that although the new bloc is open to all political forces, "everyone understands" that it will be

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closed to the parties advocating "unreasonable ideologies." This also applies to ultra-left parties, such as the Communist Party or Working Russia of Viktor Anpilov, he added.

At the same time, Shakhray, who is the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord which has supported Chernomyrdin's bloc, explained that this will not be a mechanical "cutting off" of political forces. Both Chernomyrdin's bloc and the bloc led by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin remain open to a wide spectrum of reasonable forces. Those who do not stick to this ideology may either disappear from the political arena, after they have failed to receive the required five per cent, or, if they do collect the necessary number of votes, to remain in the minority.

Party, Other Officials Comment on Chernomyrdin Bloc

Duma Deputy Chairman Cited

LD0105074295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0337 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—State Duma Deputy Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev of the Communist faction has said the emerging election blocs led by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin were "artificial formations, unlikely to last until the election campaign."

In an interview with Interfax, Seleznev emphasized that the blocs had been created for foreign guests expected to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the World War II to show that "the election returns are predictable and are under control by the Russian president."

According to Seleznev, the Communist Party of Russia will go to the elections independently without blocking with any other forces. "As for the presidential elections, the need for creation of a left-wing election bloc will depend on how strong the Communist faction in the State Duma will be," he stressed. Seleznev said his party will decide with which of political parties above the 5-percent barrier to bloc basing on the parliamentary election returns.

During its presidential election campaign, the Communist party will name not only its candidates, but the entire team of politicians to come to power in case of its victory (the future prime minister, foreign, defense, economics ministers, etc). "The Communist party intends to do it to make the future political and economic lines of the president and government predictable for the electorate," he noted.

Russia's Choice Deputy Leader Remarks

LD0105054395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—Participation of Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays in the bloc of political forces led by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin will certainly have an impact on the position of the Russia's Democratic Choice party in the electoral campaign, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Russia's Choice faction Boris Zolotukhin told Interfax today.

Chubays will participate in the creation of Chernomyrdin's bloc as a member of the organization committee. The bloc will be called Our Home Russia.

Zolotukhin and Chubays are members of the Russia's Democratic Choice political council.

Zolotukhin said the Russia's Democratic Choice leader Yegor Gaydar admitted cooperation with the premier's bloc in coordinating actions for proposing candidates to the State Duma in single-mandate constituencies.

Zolotukhin said that closer cooperation with the premier's bloc or participation of the Russia's Democratic Choice in it were hardly possible. He added that, however, this was his private opinion. He said the official position of the party towards the bloc of Chernomyrdin would be worked out at the meeting of the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction planned for May 11 and at the meeting of the party's political council.

Borovoy Criticizes Chernomyrdin Bloc

LD3004184395 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Konstantin Borovoy, chairman of the Economic Freedom Party, described the decision on the creation of an election block led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as a usurpation of power, which is illegal and contradicts the Constitution. A statement by the leader of the Economic Freedom Party, which was circulated today, says that the president and his officials are trying to interfere in the rights of citizens who create political associations to protect their interests.

Borovoy warned that the implementation of plans for establishing political formations controlled by the state will become the end to freedom and democracy in Russia.

Derzhava Movement Official Comments

LD0105060495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—Deputy Chairman of the Derzhava movement and leader of the unregistered Derzhava group in the Russian State Duma Viktor Kobelev told Interfax that the creation of the right-centrist bloc led by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin was "the only recent reasonable move of the authorities."

Kobelev said the bloc of Chernomyrdin had very serious chances to win the parliamentary elections despite all

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statements of Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Kobelev said the bloc of Chernomyrdin could be a success because it included not only very influential people in the government but also the State Duma's deputy groups representing Russian regions.

Kobelev denied statements of some politicians affirming that members of the Stability deputy group had been bribed to join the new bloc. He said he knew many members of the Stability group rather well and knew that they were honest people.

Kobelev, the Derzhava's second man, said he had been afraid that the authorities would make such a move as people could vote for Chernomyrdin's bloc rather than for the Communists, the LDPR and the Derzhava movement.

Kobelev said he was going to propose to his movement's political council that the Derzhava's position on several points be corrected in favor of wider support for the market economy and liberalization.

Speaking about the creation of the left-center electoral bloc, Kobelev said he thought that politicians close to the president had seriously let down the State Duma's Chairman Ivan Rybkin by declaring that he could head the new bloc. Kobelev said such a "service" could negatively affect the rating of Ivan Rybkin.

Kobelev said the initiative that Rybkin head the bloc was likely to have come not from the State Duma's chairman but from somebody else.

Kobelev said Ivan Rybkin was too perfect a coordinator of the State Duma and too prudent a man to fail to understand that he must not be involved into politics so much as to head a political organization.

Chernomyrdin Statements on Stalin Criticized

MM0105094895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Otto Latsis: "People Led Stalin to Victory, Not the Other Way Round"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time in the past few days—this time at a veterans' rally in Magnitogorsk—Viktor Chernomyrdin has been attracting attention with his statements, unusual for statesmen in post-Soviet times, about Stalin's positive role in the Great Patriotic War. This time, ITAR-TASS reports, the premier said, to the applause of those assembled: We cannot strike the name of Iosif Vissarionovich Stalin from the history of the war.

Of itself this formula cannot cause any objections, it is simply objective. But I should like to add that nothing should be struck from history at all. Yet, while rightly denouncing some distortions in present-day propaganda, Viktor Stepanovich has not avoided others, very familiar from the not so remote past.

We can only welcome the way in which V. Chernomyrdin repelled attempts to belittle the importance of the Great Victory a few days ago in his report at the international scientific conference entitled "lessons of World War II and the importance of the victory over fascism." Many specific provisions of this document are also useful, particularly the following, for instance: "The second reason for our military failures and defeats in 1941 is the utterly unjustified, incredible centralization of the leadership of all aspects of life and the activity of the state, the country's defense, and the development and training of the armed forces." This statement by the premier is of note at a time when the voices of the "power mongers," the supporters of "an increase in the state's role," are being heard increasingly loudly.

But apart from this reason for the defeats at the start of the war V. Chernomyrdin recalled only one other, formulated very vaguely as "prejudiced unreservedness in assessing the military-political situation." Obviously what is meant is the way Stalin allowed Hitler to outwit him in assessing the date of Germany's attack although he had sufficient information to draw correct conclusions.

Restricting himself to these conclusions, V. Chernomyrdin deliberately or not "struck from history" the far more important reasons for our military failures and terrible losses in the war. As we know, Stalin was to blame for the fact that the Red Army was destroyed even before the start of the war: The terror he launched took the lives of more army leaders and commanders than a single army of the world had lost even as a result of defeat in war. Even after the "mini-rehabilitation" in 1939 and even after the start of the war in October 1941 the best military leaders were being shot in the prisons when there were so few at the front.

The course of the war was undoubtedly affected by the mindless voluntarism in managing the economy which led to the total collapse of the plan for the development of industry in the first five-year plan (1928-1932), very successful in its first version, to the slump in industrial production in 1938, and to the absolute reduction of agricultural production in the early thirties, which had not been completely compensated for by the start of the war itself. Among the reasons for the failures we cannot fail to cite the famine organized by the state in the early thirties which took the lives of 10 million peasants. Those who could have become soldiers in the forthcoming war had died. The moral and political atmosphere was poisoned for decades, which could not fail to affect the behavior of the population in the occupied territories and the army's combat morale.

All this would seem nothing new but we recall the impressive "successes" achieved by the Brezhnev-Suslov propaganda simply by keeping quiet about what back at the time of Khrushchev's thaw was quite widely known.

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During the years of Gorbachev's glasnost what was by no means news to historians was a shocking discovery for an entire generation. What is known swiftly becomes unknown unless it is recalled. And a pretext like the 50th anniversary of the Victory makes recalling what happened in full more than appropriate.

Mention of the benefit of the "authority of power" and Stalin's "exactingness" in V. Chernomyrdin's report could still seem an accidental slip of the tongue. After this thesis was repeated in Magnitogorsk the hypothesis that it was an accident is ruled out. All this prompts us to special thought in the light of the premier's recently animated political activity on the election front. The coalition of democratic and right-centrist forces he has announced is one thing. Making advances to the Stalinists is another. After all, the newly created bloc's declared aim is to remove political extremes. Yet speeches about the great military leader who led the people to Victory sound as though they come from the extreme camp. "Hurrah-patriots" noisily deny there is patriotism in anyone who allows himself to doubt the virtues of the Supreme High Commander who "led us to victory."

For a politician of a reformist bent it seems more appropriate to interpret the role of the individual in such events in the way that genuine science always does. In the desire to defend the Fatherland in 1941-1945 the interests of the people and Stalin coincided (with the understandable reservation that the people were far from indifferent to the price of victory while Stalin did not take it into account). Under these conditions the leader of the country—any leader—could not fail to do much of use. But it was not Stalin who led the people to victory—the people led Stalin to victory, and at a very high price.

Rybkin on Future Composition of Center-Left Bloc

LD2804191295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Ivan Rybkin, regards a future Center-Left pre-election bloc under his leadership as an association of working people who recognize different forms of ownership and are capable of defending those suffering under market conditions. He told this [to] Itar-Tass at a news conference in Tokyo today.

The speaker of the State Duma expressed a view that "in the final analysis, two powerful blocs will arise in the center of the political spectrum of Russia which will form, as a matter of fact, a single social and liberal stratum".

In Ivan Rybkin's view, the liberal bloc headed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, will rely on the government-adopted medium-term government program of social and economic development for 1995-1997.

Characterizing the supposed composition of his Center-Left bloc, the chairman of the State Duma named specifically the Agrarian party of Russia, the Federation of Commodity Producers, trade unions including agrarian ones, the Socialist Party of Working People, the Labor Party, the Social and Democratic Union, the Union of Realists, women's and youth organizations, including the Russian youth union.

However, Ivan Rybkin believes, "this bloc will be formed only when ambitions of leaders are overcome and necessary formal procedures are fulfilled—a conduct of plenary sessions, conferences and congresses".

"But in their essence and occupied positions, all these movements, parties and organizations which are professing principles of social democracy, partnership and peace in society, are intended to be together," the speaker of the State Duma stressed.

Filatov on Establishing Two Election Blocs

LD2904210695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2043 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh, Andrey Serov, and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 30 (Itar-Tass)—The establishment of two election blocs in Russia is a process which is necessary for the preservation of the course of reform in the country, Russian presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov said.

In an interview with Itar-Tass on Saturday, Filatov said that a certain amount of competition between the two blocs, led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, bodes well for the political process and election campaign in Russia.

Chernomyrdin's bloc will focus on economic issues and investments, while Rybkin's bloc will deal with social problems.

"As far as Ivan Rybkin's movement is concerned, I think it will deal more with social problems. Both have pluses and minuses. A sound social basis is critical to a good social and political situation in society which is a means of economic advancement. On the other hand, effective economy is crucial for success in the social sphere," he said.

Speaking about presidential elections and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's participation in them, Filatov said that the president has not yet made up his mind about that.

He note that Yeltsin will make a decision at the most convenient time, both from the personal and political point of view.

Filatov noted that every potential presidential candidate is free to choose his own tactic for the upcoming elections and decide when to begin his campaign. "Some

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begin earlier, others later, but the task of the incumbent president is much more complicated," he added.

On the one hand, the president should not hinder the organisation of the election campaign in general. On the other hand, he should help start it, Filatov said.

He believes that the president's decision as to whether or not run for reelection will be very individual. He will have to make it himself, although there will a lot of advice for him, Filatov said.

Yeltsin Aide Says Candidacy Question 'Premature'

MM0105122495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "'It Is Important Not To Neglect the Main Thing—Federation Stability,' Presidential Aide Georgiy Satarov Believes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The problems involved in preparing the legislative base for the upcoming elections were the main subject of discussion at a news conference given by Russian presidential aide Georgiy Satarov. He noted that it is primarily a question of three laws—those on elections of the president and State Duma deputies and on the formation of the Federation Council.

Whereas the law on presidential elections involves fewer problems, there is still plenty of controversy over the draft law on elections of State Duma deputies. The main bone of contention being the numerical ratio between the seats allocated on the first-past-the-post and proportional systems.

There are still heated debates under way regarding the principles governing the formation of the upper chamber of the Federation Council. There are those who favor senators being directly elected, but there are also many people who consider it a better alternative for representatives of the organs of power to be automatically delegated at local level. Given the current disagreements, Georgiy Satarov noted, it is important not to neglect the main point—Federation stability. It is also necessary to elaborate the principles for the formation of the parliament's upper chamber on the basis of these interests.

The president's aide denied the reports that the presidential apparatus is vigorously impelling Boris Yeltsin to take part in the presidential election. "The president himself has not yet said anything to anyone about this and, in my view, he considers the topic premature," Georgiy Satarov noted.

Yeltsin Signs Edict Reordering Analysis Staff

MM0105120395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 95 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 396 "On the Russian Federation President's Analysis Administration," dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 24 April 1995 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, followed by undated, unsigned "Statute on the Russian Federation President's Analysis Administration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the purposes of regularizing the structure of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, I decree:

1. The Analysis Center under the Russian Federation president is to be renamed the Russian Federation president's Analysis Administration.

2. The appended Statute on the Russian Federation President's Analysis Administration is approved.

3. Point 7 of Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 679 of 7 April 1994 "On the Russian Federation President's Analysis Service" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 15, p 1176) is to be made to read as follows:

"7. The appended Statute on the Expert Analysis Council Under the Russian Federation President is approved."

4. The following are to be deemed to have ceased to be valid:

Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 787 of 15 April 1994 "On the Russian Federation President's Group of Experts" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 16, p 1272), with the exception of Point 4;

Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1174 of 7 June 1994 "On Approving the Statute on the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Information Technology Center for Analytical Studies" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 7, p 688).

5. This edict comes into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. 24 April 1995.

Statute on the Russian Federation President's Analysis Administration

I. General Provisions

1. The Russian Federation president's Analysis Administration (hereafter called the Administration) is a structural subdivision of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

2. The Russian Federation Constitution, the laws of the Russian Federation, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, and also this statute constitute the legal basis of the Administration's activity.

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II. The Administration's Tasks

3. The Administration's chief task is to prepare for the Russian Federation president, the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, and the Russian Federation Security Council materials containing analysis of strategic questions in the development of the socioeconomic and political situation in the Russian Federation and its components.

4. In order to realize this task, the Administration studies, analyzes, and forecasts:

the socioeconomic and political development of the Russian Federation;

the socioeconomic and political situation in the components of the Russian Federation;

interethnic relations and the situations in zones of interethnic conflicts;

the attitude of Russia's population to the decisions of federal organs of state power in the socioeconomic and political spheres;

the activity of political parties and public associations in the Russian Federation;

the socioeconomic and political aspects of military building, defense industry conversion, the state's mobilization preparation, and Russian Federation legislation on defense and security;

the situation in the spheres of Russian science, technology, education, culture, and art;

the situation in the sphere of the computerization of society, federal organs of state power, and organs of state power of components of the Russian Federation;

development trends in the mass media.

5. The Administration conducts expert analysis of draft normative acts of the Russian Federation president on questions under the Administration's jurisdiction, prepares proposals for their implementation, draws up draft normative acts of the Russian Federation president and recommendations on questions under the Administration's jurisdiction, and submits them in accordance with the established procedure.

6. Within the limits of its competence the Administration ensures the activity of the Expert Analysis Council under the Russian Federation president.

III. The Administration's Functions

7. The Administration carries out the following functions:

organizes analytical research in key areas of the Russian Federation's socioeconomic policy and prepares reports, analytical notes, recommendations, and proposals;

participates in the expert analysis of programs and concepts elaborated by the Russian Federation Government, the Russian Federation Security Council, and federal organs of executive power;

organizes research into public opinion on basic socioeconomic and political problems;

cooperates with the analysis services of federal organs of state power and organs of state power of components of the Russian Federation in respect of methodological and scientific methods questions;

ensures elaboration of the methodology of the use of new information technologies in analytical research and in decisionmaking support;

organizes scientific-practical conferences in areas of the Administration's activity.

IV. Ensuring the Administration's Activity

8. In order to carry out its functions, the Administration has the right:

to request and obtain necessary materials from the leaders of structural subdivisions of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and the Russian Federation Security Council apparatus and the leaders of federal organs of executive power;

to send Administration employees to participate in sessions of the Russian Federation Government, its organs, and collegiums of federal organs of executive power on the Administration's topics in accordance with the established procedure;

to cooperate with the information-analysis services of federal organs of state power and organs of state power of components of the Russian Federation;

to use the information bases and data banks of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and also, in accordance with the established procedure, the information bases and data banks of federal organs of executive power;

to use state communications systems [sistemy svyazi i kommunikatsii], including government systems;

to involve organizations, scientific research establishments, economic, sociological, and political science centers, and also scientists and specialists in work on a contract basis;

to plan and carry out official trips by Administration staffers in accordance with the established procedure.

9. Material-technical, information-technology, and transport backup for the Administration's activity is provided by the corresponding structural subdivisions of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the Russian Federation president.

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10. Expert analytical contract work carried out on the Administration's orders is funded by the Russian Federation President's Administration of Affairs in accordance with the established procedure.

V. The Administration's Leadership

11. The Administration is headed by a chief who is appointed to the post and dismissed from it by the Russian Federation president on a submission from the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

12. The chief of the Administration has deputies who are appointed to the post and dismissed from it by the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff on a submission from the chief of the Administration.

VI. Rights and Responsibilities of the Administration Chief

13. The Administration chief:

directs the Administration's activity and is responsible for the results of this activity;

submits to the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff proposals relating to: the Administration's analytical research plan; financial backup for work; the Administration's structure and establishment; the appointment and dismissal of Administration staff;

lays down the responsibilities of the Administration's deputy chiefs;

defines the tasks of the Administration's structural subdivisions;

signs official documentation within the limits of the Administration's competence;

signs contracts for the fulfillment of expert analytical work on the Administration's orders;

makes representations for incentives for Administration staff in accordance with the established procedure.

Baburin Tells Press of RNU's Election Plans

MK2904131795 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Pavel Borisov under the "A Politician" rubric: "Sergey Baburin's Party Seeks Allies, But Remains Independent for the Time Being"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian National Union [RNU] leader Sergey Baburin, who also leads the "Russian Way" group in the State Duma, said at yesterday's press conference that the RNU intends to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections in December on its own, having formed its own federal list of candidates. At the same time, Mr. Baburin stressed that the recent Fourth RNU Congress granted the association's leadership the right to make decisions, if need be, on "forming a bloc" with "related political forces."

Mr. Baburin announced that consultations now under way with various political associations will continue until the end of May on the prospects for creating a single election bloc of patriotic forces, but that one would only be able to judge the results of these negotiations in June.

In the meantime, the RNU leader thinks, various political forces are gearing up for the coming parliamentary elections separately. "This is evidenced," he said, " by the struggle in the Kolomenskoye election district, where preparations are under way to elect a deputy to take the seat of Sergey Skorochkin, who was slain in the spring.

United Industrial Party Registers 28 Apr

LD2804162795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—A new political force—Russia's United Industrial Party—was registered by the Justice Ministry Friday [28 April].

The new party aims for "real social and economic reforms" on the basis of industrial advance and Russian capital investment, one of its leaders, the president of the Russian Industrialists' and Entrepreneurs' Union Arkady Volskiy told Interfax.

Volskiy said that the industrialists had to have a party of their own because all their earlier-founded associations, including the Industrialists' and Entrepreneurs' Union, are "depoliticized structures that cannot fight for their interests."

Moscow Police Relying on 'Own Forces' on May Day

MM0105120995 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Police Have Their Own Arithmetic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moscow police will use their own forces to ensure that public order is maintained 1 May. Major General Viktor Kiselev, chief of the public security police and deputy chief of Moscow's GUVD [Main Internal Affairs Administration], told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that approximately 2,000 GUVD personnel will be mobilized that day.

All measures have been permitted on the day. There will be a working people's rally on Teatralnaya Ploshchad and a march by representatives of various parties from Kaluzhskaya Ploshchad downtown.

Approximately 2,000 Moscow policemen will maintain public order 8 May, while public order will be maintained 9 May, according to the general's report, by 8,000 personnel of the capital's GUVD, as well as by 5,000 men of other forces attached to them.

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Opposition in Moscow Holds Two Separate Rallies

LD0105140195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 1 May 95

[By Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—The opposition in Moscow did not come out as a united front on the May Day. There were two demonstrations and two meetings held here today.

Trade unions and forces, which can perhaps be called a constructive opposition, organized a procession from the Triumphalnaya square (formerly Maykovskaya Square) along the Tverskaya Street (formerly Gorkiy Street) towards the city center.

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Russian Social Democratic peoples' Party, called this Moscow manifestation a "generator of the public movement". According to him, the demands put forward by the demonstrators, economic, political, as well as calls to improve the people's life testify to the fact that the true contents are being returned to the May Day as a festival of solidarity of the working people.

As soon as the meeting outside the Bolshoy theatre ended, a many- thousand strong column of the "irreconcilable opposition" spilled over the square. Activists of Anpilov's "Russian Communist Workers' Party" (RCWP) and Aleksey Prigarin's the Union of communists, led by Oleg Shenin of the Union of Communist parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, came marching to the monument to Lenin on the Kaluga Square (formerly Oktyabrskaya Square) with banners reading "Down with autocracy of the President, exorbitant prices and privatisers". The column included representatives of the National Salvation Front, the Anarchists, fellow-fighters of Barkashov's Russian National Unity and diminutive ultra-radical groups.

Traditional orators, in particular, Sazhi Umalatova, who called for boycotting forthcoming parliamentary elections, delivered speeches at the meeting of the extreme leftists. Slogans demanding a "complete change of the political course" and removal of the country's present leadership from the helm echoed.

Communist Party Announces May Day Arrangements

MM0105114595 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed announcement: "All to the May Day Demonstration!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moscow City and Oblast Committees of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation are urging all their members, communists, and the party's supporters to participate in the festive demonstration and rally devoted to International Working People's Solidarity Day—1 May. Participants are assembling on Mayakovskiy Square at 0900 hours. They start to move off at 0930. The route is Mayakovskiy Square, Sovetskaya Ploshchad, Prospekt Marksa, Sverdlov Square.

The rally on Sverdlov Square will start at 1030. The Russian Federation Communist Party city and oblast committees are holding the May Day demonstration and rally jointly with the Moscow Trade Union Federation, the "Trudovaya Moskva" movement, and a number of left-wing political parties.

Unions, Political Groups Meet for May Day Rally

LD0105084595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0700 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanctioned marches by trade unions and a number of other organizations are being held in Moscow today to mark May Day. The Moscow Federation of Trade Unions, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and the Moscow Labour organization will march to Triumph Square where they will hold a rally. The leader of the Federation of Russian Independent Trade Unions, Mikhail Shmakov, spoke about the slogans which the trade unions are bringing to the rally.

[Begin Shmakov recording, accompanied by jeering] The most important theme is the defense of our social and economic rights. Therefore the main slogan of this year's May Day will be the demand that the trade unions' aims are achieved and that the demands they have been making since last year are met, that wage arrears should be paid, that real measures should be taken to fight unemployment and that the government should follow an economic policy that benefits the majority of Russian people]

I would add that the catcalls accompanying Shmakov's words came from communists.

Another march is under way from Kaluga Square to Theater Square today. More than 500 people had assembled on Kaluga Square by 1000 this morning. They were mainly representatives of the Russian Communist Workers' Party and the Russian Labor movement. Our correspondent reports from the scene:

[Correspondent] For now demonstrators are walking around the square with red banners. The march along the Yakimanskaya Embankment to the center - to Theater Square, to be more precise - has yet to begin. According to the organizers of the rally, the column will set off at 1100. No conflicts with the militia on the square are to be observed. The ZAVTRA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspapers are being actively distributed. The demonstrators are singing songs from the Soviet years.

[Announcer] Speaking at the rally which has begun on Triumph Square, Gennadiy Zyuganov called for a united

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state patriotic bloc for the elections, to include agrarians, communists, socialists and trade unions.

'No Incidents' at Moscow May Day Meetings

LD0105143295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1321 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 1 (Interfax)—Around 23,000 people have taken part in the May Day meetings in Moscow. Police spokesmen told Interfax that "no incidents have been registered".

Moscow trade unions together with left-centrist parties and movements were the first to march along the Tverskaya Street and to hold a public meeting at Teatralnaya Square. Taking part were 15,000 people.

Chairman of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions (MFTU), Mikhail Nagaytsev, who opened the meeting, congratulated those present on "the holiday of spring and work", on the forthcoming 50th anniversary of Victory over the fascist Germany, as well as on the 90th anniversary of the Moscow trade unions. He said that their task remains the same—"to uphold the right of the working people for the wages, employment and legality".

Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, Mikhail Shmakov, for his part, called on those present to strengthen unity and solidarity, which, as he said, "are particularly important in the run up to the parliamentary elections during which it is necessary to nominate to power structures people who uphold the interests of the majority of people."

Leader of the Communist party Gennadiy Zyuganov also said about the need for joint efforts in the election campaign, and added that "the Communists are prepared to create a bloc of state-patriotic forces, which would express the people's unity and would ensure victory at the elections".

Deputy chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, Nikolay Kharitonov, highly assessed the likelihood of such a success of the Communist Party of Russia, the Agrarian Party of Russia and trade unions, and added that "two election blocs, which are to be created, "by command from the above", by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin, are doomed to failure."

At 11:30 the trade union meeting at Triumphalnaya Square in Moscow closed.

Meanwhile, around 4,500 supporters of pro-Communist movements headed from the Kaluzhskaya Square (formerly Oktyabrskaya) to Teatralnaya Square. The demonstrators carried around 200 red flags and slogans: "Proletarians of all countries, unite!", "Working people! It's time to rise from the knees", "No to private property".

Among demonstrators were activists of "the Workers' Russia", the Russian Communist Workers' Party, the Russian National Unity, the Russian Young Communist League, and the Congress of Soviet Women.

According to leader of the "Workers' Russia", Viktor Anpilov, around 40 million people will stand in Russia today "under red slogans of May 1". Anpilov spoke in favor of restoring the Soviet power in the country. Only the Soviet leadership must approve a new government, which would restore the state economy".

In an interview with Interfax Anpilov said that his movement will take part in the parliamentary elections. Anpilov will nominate himself, as he put it, to the post of "the head of state". Among his likely allies in the election campaign, he named the Movement for Restoration of the Soviet Union, the Union of Officers, and the Agrarian Union. "We cannot be allies with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy while he backs the Russian president," he said.

Taking part in the meeting of his supporters at Teatralnaya Square, which began at 13:00, are already around 8,000 people. The speakers favored the change of the government and the restoration of the Soviet Union.

An Interfax correspondent reports that the address to the working people of the Soviet Union expresses the need "for a complete change in the political course" and that "the political leaders from Gorbachev to Yeltsin be brought to court".

Chairperson of the so-called standing presidium of the congress of Soviet people's deputies Sazhi Umalatova, has called on those present to boycott the parliamentary elections. Addressing the Russian women, she asked them to withdraw their sons from the zone of hostilities in Chechnya. She said that around 300,000 Russian officers and men are stationed now in this North Caucasian republic.

Program Passed To Improve Psychiatric Services

MK2904135995 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Authorities Have Found That There Are Too Many Mentally Ill People in the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal authorities have become seriously concerned by the mental health of the population.

According to the Russian Federation Government's information, during the perestroyka years the number of mentally disabled Russians grew by one-third. Moreover, currently one out of every 20 school children has mental aberrations. Small wonder that mental hospitals are overloaded, given such a growth in the number of the insane.

In order to mend the situation, the federal government has passed a special program aimed specifically at improving psychiatric assistance. Under the program,

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several hundred new health establishments providing psychiatric assistance are due to emerge on Russian territory by 1997. Old buildings that still can be used for this purpose will be renovated. The authorities are also drawing up amendments to the Criminal Code specifying grounds on which mentally ill people may be treated forcibly, as well as a statute on lawyers providing legal services to this category of people.

Media Issues

Journalists Union Holds 4th Congress

Filatov Addresses Congress

LD2804193195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The free Russian press is becoming a guarantor of irreversible democratic transformations, Sergey Filatov, the presidential administration chief, declared at the Congress of the Russian Journalists Union in the Kremlin.

According to him, the authorities registered by the end of last year 2364 newspapers, 2219 magazines, 304 TV programs, 186 radio programs, and 104 information agencies in Russia.

Filatov urged Russian media "to help to form a civic society and create an atmosphere of tolerance and civic concord."

On relations between power and the press, he stressed that for Russia "it is a sphere of absolutely new relations". In his words, both democratic power and the press "are still far from perfect." "They are in the making," he added.

"The Chechen crisis has shown that the decision-making process is still much closed to the press and to society as a whole," and that breeds "rumors and hearsay".

Filatov then said that there was "alarming expectation" in Russia, "disbelief in the stability of the ongoing processes and an expectation of something bad," Filatov explained. This expectation, according to him, "stems from never-ending rumors that a coup is in the offing, or elections are to be put off, or a state of emergency is to be imposed." These fears "create a specific climate of general mistrust, in which a tree of public consent cannot grow."

Looking ahead at parliamentary and presidential elections, Filatov declared that they would take place in accordance with the Russian Constitution.

"The problem of political stability is becoming particularly acute," and that calls "for a mechanism to be found to reconcile different interests and consolidate various social and political forces for the sake of peace in society," Filatov said. In his opinion, the Public Accord signed exactly a year ago, no matter how difficult it is to implement, provides such a mechanism.

Censorship Pressures Bemoaned

MK2904121595 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Official Organ of the Journalist Estate Fears Violence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 4th Congress of the Russian Journalists Union, which was held in the Kremlin, ended yesterday. Vsevolod Bogdanov was unanimously reelected to another term. He told the congress that the state of the information market in the country is deplorable. Speakers noted a strengthening of political, economic, and administrative pressure on the press and attempts in some forms or other to restore censorship. The congress stated that "violence with respect to the journalist is becoming a norm."

Commentator Rejects Strictures on Media Freedom

MM0105083095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Andrey Shmelev: "'Most' Finds Support for Glasnost on Capitol Hill"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plausibility of the scenario—an essential element of parody—showed through, intentionally or otherwise, in the report of ITAR-TASS journalists on the appearance in the U.S. Congress by leaders of the NTV television company and the financial-industrial group "Most." They were taking part in hearings on "Freedom of the Press in Russia and Central Europe" in the capacity of witnesses....

The plausibility of the scenario—no need to be alarmed!—is sufficiently remote. The leaders of "Most-TV" are significantly further from being prisoners of conscience or human rights champions. And the yellowing headlines of the party press are a little closer to reality. Credit should be given to the TASS reporters, who recorded everything with their characteristic professionalism and accuracy: what they heard, who was present, and what was resolved. Tom Lantos (Democrat from California) and James Leach (Republican from Iowa) presided. Speeches were made by Dmitriy Simes, president of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom; Kati Marton [name as transliterated], cochairman of the Congress Committee for the Defense of Journalists and Writers; Peter Redzuyey [last name as transliterated], professor of political science at the George Washington University; and James Billington, director of the Library of Congress (and, of course, the "witnesses").

The hearings were opened by V. Gusinskiy. "The main test of whether or not Russia is continuing to move down

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the path of democratic reforms is the right of every Russian citizen to obtain information about what is happening in Russia and the outside world." The enthusiasm for panhuman values is quickly replaced by a confused, anxious foreboding. "And any restrictions on this right would entail serious consequences. I would not like to be pessimistic, since, in my opinion, so far there are no grounds for this, although there is anxiety, very great anxiety."

NTV president Malashenko enlarges on his boss' anxiety.

"Both economic and political pressure are being exerted on the mass media in Russia in order to force them to stop serving society. This pressure has become especially obvious during the war in Chechnya.... Our company made a substantial contribution to objective coverage of the war in Chechnya, and for this reason we experienced pressure from the government."

What is meant by "substantial contribution" is not made clear. But it can hardly have referred to the "tears and convulsions" wrung out by the camera lens. The "contribution" is just as riddlesome as the "pressure from the government."

"We were warned that we would have our license taken away," Malashenko explains.

NTV takes these warnings very seriously. Especially in the light of an article by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy entitled "Why Do I Want To Close NTV?", carried by KURANTY. Because the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia "very often reads the most private thoughts of the people in the Kremlin." This became obvious to the "Most-TV" leadership during the war in Chechnya, and also after the defense minister awarded Zhirinovskiy a routine promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel of the reserve. According to this logic, we should be ready, when the state provides Vladimir Volfovich with hot water in his apartment, for NTV to start broadcasting from emigration. (Incidentally, Vladimir Gusinskiy already has one foot among the emigres, having spent too much time in the gloomy city of London.)

Making the usual allowance for TV announcer Kiselev, who followed "the logic of political developments" up to the postponement of the Russian presidential election, the "witnesses" from the "Most" independent television financial group asked Congress and the American public just one thing: to keep any attempts to put pressure on the press in the former Soviet Union, and especially in Russia, at the center of their attention, so that the initiators of such actions fully understand that none of their actions will slip past public opinion.

It would be good also if it does not slip past public opinion just who is saying this. And where. Who is it who is saying that freedom of the press is being strangled by economic dependence? It is "Most," which controls NTV and the SEGODNYA newspaper. It is political scientist Peter Redzuyey, in the [U.S.] Congress. The Congress, about which you will never hear a bad word when you tune in to Radio Liberty (funded by Congress).

Of course, strictly speaking freedom of speech, freedom to disseminate information, and the objectivity of that information exist in the sphere of objectivity in a highly relative sense. But seeing that the "judges" and "witnesses" in the U.S. Congress chose ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA to illustrate the manipulation of the press by government subsidies, one objective and fundamental difference should be noticed. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA does not uphold the principle: nothing but good about the boss. Which, unfortunately, cannot be said about the mass media outlets funded by Congress and "Most."

But the most interesting thing is not even why the leaders of an influential (not only in the mass media) financial group have decided to save democracy and free speech in Russia from Capitol Hill.

No, the most curious thing of all is something else. The witnesses to the persecution of press freedom in Russia addressed the congressional hearings at the beginning of April—5 April, to be precise—but for some reason only ITAR-TASS was able to obtain information about this. "Most's" own mouthpieces—NTV and SEGODNYA—demonstrated modesty tantamount to repression of an event so important for Russian democracy and press freedom. Possibly the persons who "testified" to the U.S. congressmen were counting on these congressmen themselves. They will sound the alarm to the whole world on "Herzen's Bell" [reference to KOLOKOL (the Bell), 19th century liberal newspaper published in emigration], they said to themselves.

But the inquisitorial minds of the U.S. congressmen did not want to concentrate on the one idea which was stubbornly being instilled into them. Tom Lanton suddenly sounded off forcefully about the authoritarian behavior of the Slovak government, as a result of which, in his words, Slovakia had no business being in NATO (who would have thought it!). Then Dmitriy Sayms lined up together nationalism, anti-Americanism, and Aleksandr Rutskoy, stating that his election to the presidency in Russia could have very negative consequences for the United States. And even we were quite embarrassed for Dmitriy Sayms when he inquired of Mr. Gusinskiy: How could "Most-bank"—that bastion of free speech and business—employ Colonel General Bobkov, former deputy chairman of the USSR KGB, guilty (Ah, Dmitriy, you and your big mouth) of suppressing Jews and dissidents, and also Major General Yevgeniy Ivanov, deported from France, where he too threatened dissidents in the seventies.

Gusinskiy replied to this insulting accusation: "Unfortunately, all the people who can handle security questions came out of that system. We were ready to hire the devil himself if only he could ensure our security—that is normal. But we know the political character of these people."

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End of TASS quotation.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree Extending Military Service

LD3004123495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It became known today that President Yeltsin has signed the law on amendments and addenda to the law on military service passed by the State Duma on 7 April. You will recall that the document was not submitted to the Federation Council for ratification. In accordance with it, the term of service in the Army is increased to two years.

Yeltsin Explains Amendment

LD0105053095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

["Yeltsin Answers Question Put by Interfax correspondent Terekov"—INTERFAX headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] QUESTION: You have signed amendments to the Law "On the Military Duty and Service", which were passed early in April, and the Decree on Deferment. Over three weeks have passed between the adoption of the law and your decree. Why has the decree appeared only today?

ANSWER: I closely followed the discussion of the Duma law, particularly concerning the conscription to the military service of the students after their graduation from the institutions of higher learning.

My Constitutional duty of the president and the Supreme Commander is to ensure the high combat readiness of the Armed Forces, carry out the military reform, take measures to strengthen law and order in the troops. This is impossible to do without the personnel which would meet the modern demands. Guided by the interests of the state security, I have signed the federal law "On Introducing Changes and Amendments to the Law of the Russian Federation 'On the Military Duty and Service'".

At the same time, I must take care of science and preserve the scientific and technical intelligentsia. That is why, simultaneously with the Law, I signed the decree "On Granting Deferment From the Conscription to Individual Categories of Citizens".

In line with this decree, exempt from the conscription to the military service will be:

First, young talented representatives of science, that is, post-graduates, who are studying in state educational and scientific establishments. The deferment covers the period of studies and defending the thesis;

Second, the citizens, who right upon graduation begin working in line with their profession in state organizations and enterprises. The deferment cover the entire period of such work.

By this decree we shall preserve in the state sector of the economy, in educational and scientific organizations, including in the Academy of Sciences, a young generation of creative scientific and technical intellectuals of Russia.

Zolotukhin, Baturin View Edict

LD3004144195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Boris Zolotukhin, a member of the State Duma Legislative Committee who is one of the leaders of Russia's Choice, welcomed the president's edict on the law on military service.

[Begin Zolotukhin recording] I understand that this step taken by the president is his response to the numerous appeals made to him and in response, I think, to the long, detailed letter from Russia's Democratic Choice Chairman Yegor Gaydar, in which he asked the president to restore the situation that existed previously and not to allow the term of service to be increased to two years. This, however, is only a tactical step by the president. It cannot, of course, satisfy Russia's Democratic Choice Party. We will go on fighting for the old order to be restored.

The term of service should not exceed one and a half years. All exemptions from service should be kept. The most important thing is that there should be real military reform. We should make the transition to a professional army serving on a contractual basis. Until the army is reformed, until it is reorganized, the same problems are going to be repeated constantly. [end recording]

At the same time, Zolotukhin believes that the edict on deferments violates Article 8 of the Constitution on the equal status of all forms of property. You will recall that the edict talks of deferments for those who are taking up posts in state establishments.

[Begin Zolotukhin recording] Of course, in this case, state property is being given preferential treatment over other forms of property. This preferential treatment given to state property in the edict goes against the relevant article of the Constitution. [end recording]

Zolotukhin does not rule out the possibility of an appeal to the Constitutional Court in connection with the edict in question if a political force with an interest in abolishing the deferments can be found. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Yuriy Baturin, the president's national security aide, believes that Yeltsin made use of his constitutional right to award privileges and deferments in the given case since the law establishes only the very

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broadest rules. At the same time, if the actual implementation of the law and edict turns up distortions, Baturin said, then the president reserves the right to correct the situation.

Baturin on Conscription Edict

LD3004183795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] The length of service of soldiers and sergeants in the Russian Army is being raised to two years in place of the current year and a half. [passage omitted on Yeltsin signing Duma bill] The decision is the result of a compromise. Yuriy Baturin, Yeltsin's aide on national security, told us that the president received many different appeals and letters this past week.

[Begin Baturin recording] The president understands the concern and anxiety. At the same time, he is receiving information from the Defense Ministry and the Army. The state of affairs with the call-up was quite dangerous. The Army's combat readiness really was in question. The president was against signing this law for a long time, but these letters had an effect. As the guarantor of security, the president was obliged to think about the balance of interests, and of course it was not a simple matter of the Army or science or the students. The important thing was to defend the interests of the state. [end recording]

[Announcer] Yuriy Baturin stressed that the law signed today only sets out the broader aspects of the call-up.

[Begin Baturin recording] The president can use his constitutional right to establish certain categories of citizens who are granted deferments, and that is what he has done. Moreover, if the implementation of the law or the decree unearths some distortion or injustice or other such thing, then the president retains the option to correct the situation through his decrees and orders. [end recording]

Yeltsin Signs Edict on Spring Conscription

LD3004135995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 30 (Itar-Tass)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree declaring the spring draft to and mobilisation from the Army and Navy in April, May and June 1995.

The decree, effective from the day of publication, authorises military enlistment offices to draft 209,800 conscripts born between 1968 and 1977.

It also obligates federal bodies of executive power, where military service exists, to arrange for recruiting volunteers for the positions which are designated for sergeants, master sergeants and privates.

The president also signed a decree granting a draft deferment to young talented scientists, post-graduate students studying at state educational and scientific establishments for the period of studying and graduates who obtain a full-time job at a state organisation or enterprise for the entire period of their work there.

Grachev Signs Order on Demobilization of Servicemen

LD0105115295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has signed an order in compliance with the President's decree of April 29, 1995, on the dismissal of all categories of army servicemen whose term of service has expired. Under the president's decree, these servicemen would not have to serve in the army for another six months, which might be compulsory after the State Duma adopted amendments to the law on military service, extending the term of compulsory military service to two years.

In the next two months eligible young men born in the period between 1968-1977, who have no right to postpone or be relieved of military service, will be drafted into the army.

Ministry: No Hasty Army Pullout From Dniester

LD2804191595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—There is no talk of an immediate and hasty withdrawal of the 14th Russian army from Moldova, says a statement cabled by a Russian Foreign Ministry official to Interfax on Friday.

The document notes that "the 14th Russian army really plays an important positive role in stabilizing the situation in the region, and that is recognized by international political and public circles and is shared by responsible officials in many countries."

The source recalled that on October 21, 1994, the prime ministers of Russia and Moldova signed in Moscow "an agreement on the legal status, procedure and terms of withdrawal of the Russian troops, temporarily stationed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova."

"This agreement and the subsequently signed supplements provide a legal basis for Russia's military presence in Moldova and rule out all speculations over the essence and nature of this presence," the statement stresses.

It notes that "Russian troops will be pulled out of Moldova by mutual consent without haste within three years after the accord comes into force."

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"This three year term was fixed precisely to take into account the organizational, technical, and financial problems, connected with the 14th army withdrawal, the diplomat pointed out, adding that the gradual pullout of troops is to be implemented in stages."

He explained that "as the first step, there are plans to withdraw some units that do not significantly affect the vitality and military preparedness of the 14th army."

The document draws attention to a commitment made in the October 21, 1994 agreement that "practical steps toward troop withdrawal will be matched by efforts to settle the conflict in Transdniester by political means and define a special status for the Dniester region of Moldova."

The Russian Foreign Ministry official specifically noted that Moscow "proceeds from the recognition of Moldova's independence, sovereignty and non-interference in its internal affairs. "The promotion of genuinely friendly relations with Moldova meets the basic interests of Russia," the diplomat stressed.

Voicing Russia's intention to continue to act along with OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] as go-betweens in the political dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol, he pointed that everything "still depends on the good will and vigor of the conflicting sides themselves and their readiness for compromise."

As the statement notes, "desired results" can be attained only if "the long-term interests of both Russia and Moldova, its Dniester region included," are respected.

Kobets Dismisses Tension Around 14th Army

LD2904174795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Deputy Russian Defence Minister Army General Konstantin Kobets said attempts to whip up tension around the 14th Russian army in the Dniester region of Moldova is unfounded.

Addressing war veterans at the Central House of the Russian Army in Moscow on Saturday, Kobets said that there is no point in keeping a whole army in the region. The 14th army is in the Dniester region on a peacekeeping mission and its strength does not exceed that of a regular army brigade, he noted.

Considering this, the Russian Defence Ministry has decided to reorganise the army's command into an operational group, effective enough to cope with the tasks that may be assigned to the Russian troops in the Dniester region, Kobets said.

The general said that its top priority task will be to ensure the region's security and arrange for the transportation and sale of the army's equipment and property.

Speaking about 14th army commander Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, Kobets pointed out that Lebed "is in his place and confidently commands the troops." "Order reigns there, the troops are trained well," he added.

Kobets noted that usually the position of deputy commander of a military district, which has been offered to General Lebed, is reserved for army commanders.

Kobets termed the decision on the withdrawal of the 14th army from the Dniester region "difficult," adding that the Defence Ministry is taking measures in order not to leave military equipment, weapons and property of the army in the region unattended.

Speaking about the possibility of reorganising the 14th army into a Russian military base, Kobets said that this issue has to be decided by politicians, not the military. "If Moldova makes such a proposal, the Russian leadership will be ready to consider it. So far there have not been any such proposals. Russia is not indifferent about its presence in this region," he said.

Earlier today, Lebed said that the proposed reorganisation of his army will weaken it and is fraught with a new armed conflict in the Dniester region.

Lebed, who heavily criticised Defence Minister Pavel Grachev several times and President Yeltsin, said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass that his talks with commander of Russian land forces Nikolay Semyonov on Friday "was not easy." However, he "does not intend to take any decisions until he receives an official order from Moscow."

Earlier, representatives of the Defence Ministry reported that the reorganisation of the 14th army provides for a considerable cut of its command. According to them, General Lebed has been offered several posts.

"The command of the army is now working as a well-tuned mechanism due to the painstaking work that has been done in the last few years," Lebed said. "The reorganisation planned by the Defence Ministry is thoughtless because it means a breakdown of this mechanism, which will inevitably weaken the army."

According to Lebed, some forces in the government of the self- proclaimed Dniester Republic cannot wait to get hold of the army's depots. "Under the present circumstances, it is highly improbable that the Moldovan leadership will sit idle and, as far as I know, Chisinau is already preparing counter measures," the general continued.

"It is an easy guess that a new armed conflict is imminent," Lebed said. He also pointed out that the talks on the settlement of the conflict between Chisinau and Tiraspol (capital of the self-proclaimed republic) were marking time in the recent past and that a planned meeting between the Moldovan and Dniester leaders has been postponed for the third month running.

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Nuclear Submarines Not To Transport Freight

MM2804150895 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast: Video report from Murmansk by Valeriy Anuchin, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Anuchin over video of submarines moored at quayside] These Northern Fleet nuclear submarines are 25 years old. They have been decommissioned and are waiting to be dismantled together with another 100 or so Russian submarines. They still have nuclear fuel on board. This is unquestionably an environmental hazard. So what is to be done? Neither the Northern Fleet nor the state has the money to scrap and recycle them. Furthermore, many of the submarines still contain unspent fuel and could be of service to Russia. The Northern Fleet Command has come up with the idea of making use of the submarines for national economic purposes. If missile system equipment were to be removed from some of the bays, the freed space could be used to transport more than 1,000 tonnes of food and other freight. And the former missile launch tubes could be used to transport containers with construction materials and other goods. This would provide a swift means of transportation to inaccessible areas of the Arctic. These nuclear submarines could also provide useful help in prospecting for oil and gas and developing deposits on the Arctic shelf. Additional equipment for this purpose would have to be installed. Offers to this effect have already been received from the Rosshelf Company. Thus these submarines could be given a new lease of life. After all, their nuclear power plants are good for another 10 to 15 years. This type of experiment involving military nuclear submarines has no precedent in the world. [video shows submarines in harbor and interior of submarine]

First-Generation Reactors To Be Used Past 2000

MM2804143195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 95 First Edition p 8

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS column: "Fate of AES's at the Turn of the Century"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of the third millennium Russia intends to shut down all its first-generation nuclear reactors, Armen Abagyan, general director of the All-Russia Research Institute for the Operation of AES's [nuclear electric power stations], has said. According to him, there are now a total of 29 reactors in operation at nine Russian AES's, 12 of which are first-generation, i.e. were built around 25 years ago. Early next century they will be shut down once they have reached the end of their designed operational life.

Parachute System for Ariane Boosters Tested

MM2804144395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast: Video report by Vladimir Polozhentsev, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Polozhentsev over video of Ariane launch] Unlike us, the Europeans are cost-conscious people. Despite a series of unsuccessful launches of the Ariane space launcher, the European Space Agency [ESA] has long been thinking about building a parachute system to recover its boosters for possible reuse. As is well known, all our boosters and launcher stages fall back to the ground, turning into metal scrap. And that is despite the fact that our country has considerable experience in building space parachute systems. One of these systems was devised for the "Energiya" launcher. However, as is well known, the "Buran" program has been axed.

Aware of our experience and our financial problems, the Dutch company Fokker and the Spanish company (?SINSA) have concluded a 2-year contract with the Scientific Research Institute for Parachute Building for a booster recovery system for Ariane 5, to be launched in November.

The latest tests of this parachute system took place near Kirzhach today. An Il-76 dropped a special mockup weighing 36 tonnes from a height of 4.5 km. Its initial speed was 250 meters per second. A bunch of three parachutes—they are pink in color—slowed the cargo down to 65 meters per second. Then the main parachute with an area of 1,800 square meters opened. For the first time in the practice of the scientific research institute, the main and brake parachutes were filled in four stages [imeli chetyre stupeni rifleniya], that is, their filling with air was interrupted four times. The mockup itself is a complex reusable system. After reaching the main speed of 25 meters per second, ballast—a mixture of sand and gravel—is jettisoned. The mass of the cargo is reduced from 36 tonnes to 11 tonnes. A soft landing takes place. This is exactly what happened on this occasion. The institute staffers were overjoyed. The Dutch representatives of Fokker were more reserved in their display of emotions. They painstakingly examined the parachute on the ground, made a number of observations, but were "on the whole very pleased with the test" in the words of (?Jacques Akkerman). The same goes for us. When you watch such a spectacle, you cannot but feel proud of Russia. But it is a pity that boosters will soft-land only abroad, while Russian boosters will continue to fall on our compatriots' heads.

Incidentally, according to our information, the new Russian "Angara" launcher is to be equipped with a similar parachute system. However, nobody can tell for sure when this project will be implemented.

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Federal Assembly

Rybkin: Federal Assembly Powers 'Sufficient'

MM2804152495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, by Aleksandr Kapkov; date and place not given: "A Parliament Which Makes Laws Cannot Be 'In Someone's Pocket'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma has been working for over a year now. In 14 months it has prepared a vast package of laws and draft laws relating to all spheres of the formation and strengthening of the Russian state system. The new raft of laws is enabling the country to move toward a new market area governed by the law. The idea of social accord, the adoption of the Civil Code, the new regional policy, the financial amnesty for the "new Russians," and other initiatives began with the direct participation of the head of the lower chamber of the Russian parliament.

"I regard the adoption of part one of the Russian Federation Civil Code as the most important achievement," the chairman of the State Duma said. "This is essentially the country's economic constitution which is already beginning to operate and will govern the lives of future generations. We are now finishing work on part two of the code. At the end of March the Duma began discussing the draft Russian Land Code and is near to finishing work on the Tax Code, which will form the basis for the preparation of the 1996 federal budget. We seriously expect that the government will issue the draft budget as early as the end of May precisely in accordance with the corresponding federal law.

"The Labor Law Code is also very important. It is designed to regulate relations between employers and employees in the most detailed way."

[Kapkov] Why are you paying so much attention to legal codes? And how do you regard the other legislative foundations of our economy?

[Rybkin] I am talking about the legal codes in such detail because they are the ultimate foundation of legislation. But in fact the raft of economic laws is pretty substantial. Many of them relate to questions of foreign economic activity, the exploitation of Russia's continental shelf, oil, gas, coal, and grain, the coordination of agricultural production and industry, the activity of joint-stock companies, and the functioning of the securities market. These laws are being discussed and some have already been adopted, approved by the Federation Council, signed by the president, and enacted. It is very important that draft laws are firmly linked to the set of laws governing citizens' social protection. The Law "On Veterans" has been adopted. Some people are unhappy that it is not being implemented immediately. But the country's financial situation is such that there is simply no alternative right now. That is why initially norms are being introduced relating to support for the most vulnerable groups in society.

The draft Laws "On the Subsistence Minimum," "On Pensions," "On the Indexation of Pensions," "On the Minimum Rate of Pension," and "On the Minimum Wage" have led to serious disputes with the government and the president. The road to accord here is very arduous. The Duma has proposed increasing the scale of pensions to 54,100 rubles [R] but the leadership of the Pension Fund claims that there is no money in the treasury for that.

[Kapkov] You are talking largely about the budget and the macroeconomic "curbing" of the economy. Why do you put the emphasis there precisely?

[Rybkin] The situation in the economy is very complex, which is why we are adopting the draft laws which I have mentioned in an attempt to mitigate the consequences of the transformations, especially for the older generation, whose combined labor created the country's wealth.

On the other hand, we will try to ensure that it is advantageous for Russian entrepreneurs to invest their money in the Russian economy instead of unthinkingly exporting it. The export of capital is unacceptably high—$2-2.5 billion a month! In the past four years $100 billion have been exported! This is an enormous figure. The revenue section of our budget this year is just R200 trillion rubles.

And of course it has to be said that the State Duma has adopted the 1995 budget and, furthermore, by a comfortable majority. It is a very tough budget, which is why it is unpopular. It is a program for a strong government. It takes strength of character to keep the country within the budget's parameters. New sources of finance must be found. We identified some of them for the government. Then inflation will be defeated and eventually it will be possible to substantially improve Russians' lives.

At present 40 percent of the economy is the "shadow" economy. The area we have to work in is where the economy has been forced into the shadows by an intolerable burden of taxation, which is why people are not paying taxes. But sometimes it has been led into the shadows by the efforts of dishonest leaders and that is where we are cooperating with the prosecutor's office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, even with the Foreign Intelligence Service, the president, and the government. We reached agreement with the president to deprive a number of enterprises, concerns, and firms of their concessions and privileges and have embarked on that. The president issued an edict which abolishes concessions and privileges in foreign trade. Equal conditions are being created for all. The licensing system, which had turned into a gold mine for civil servants, is being abolished.

[Kapkov] This may be regarded as a "plus" in the State Duma's legislative work. But is agreement possible on all the key questions?

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[Rybkin] Of course not. There are occasions when, I would say, common sense breaks down. I believe that what is needed is not to be stubborn but to find compromise with the president and the government, to be guided by common sense and by the potential of the treasury, and not to put people in a difficult position. Political obstinacy must be overcome.

What else is not working out? We are perhaps failing to achieve an absolute legal "purity" of draft laws, which sometimes provokes the president's veto and, it has to be said, on purely formal grounds. We have now reached agreement on a joint structural subdivision of the legal department of the State Duma and the Presidential Staff, which will tackle these questions. There are many intelligent professionals working in the State Duma Apparatus today, one in 10 has an academic degree. And like many deputies they work from dawn till dusk.

[Kapkov] But is there manpower enough to shift the entire load of problems, after all, people often say that deputies are only any good for pressing buttons and looking after their own personal interests, do they not?

[Rybkin] I can tell you that the present State Duma deputies are considerably different from their predecessors in the Supreme Soviet and Congresses of Russian People's Deputies. There are a great many talented and gifted people among them: 40 percent have an academic degree, one in 10 is an academician or professor. There are very many representatives of banking and commercial circles and people with considerable wealth. The law on the status of the State Duma deputy prescribes that every deputy, on entering parliament, has to put his commercial affairs aside and concentrate solely on being a deputy. The only exception is for those engaged in science and teaching. Unfortunately, not all deputies abide by these rules. Formally they transfer their business affairs to their spouses and children but they continue engaging in them, which has adverse consequences. Commerce is bound up with big bucks and that leads to criminal showdowns.

[Kapkov] Perhaps this is due to the fundamental impossibility of self-expression? After all, parliament is often accused of being in someone's "pocket," of being entirely dependent on the president.

[Rybkin] When people talk about the Federal Assembly having only minor powers I reply that the Federal Assembly has sufficient powers. The whole law-making process starts in the Federal Assembly. If the president disagrees with something he can impose his veto on any draft law. But the Federal Assembly, in the shape of the two chambers, can overturn that veto by two-thirds of the votes, which is what we do when we see a need. Is this not a major power that the Federal Assembly has? It is tremendous! Now I would like to deal with the monitoring functions which some of my colleagues think are inadequate. I believe that the Constitution prescribes very considerable monitoring functions for the Federal Assembly chambers.

[Kapkov] But in the past the Supreme Soviet could remove any minister, whereas now?...

[Rybkin] Yes, I too am sometimes asked: Is it not necessary to strengthen the Federal Assembly's powers in respect of monitoring the composition of the government? But I believe that given benevolent, intelligent, and productive collaboration with the president we, as the embodiment of public opinion, can act in the following way. The State Duma and the Federation Council express no confidence in a given minister who has made this or that mistake but they do so not in the heat of the moment but when they have good reasons and evidence. As a rule the president then heeds this opinion and dismisses the minister. But that is essentially an impromptu transfer of a part of the monitoring functions to the representative power, which in this instance expresses public opinion. And the representative legislative power must enjoy sufficient prestige for that. For the moment, however, I believe that it is possible to work under the Constitution which has been adopted without rushing into special amendments to it.

[Kapkov] At one time, at the start of the nineties, the decision on the formation of the country's budget was adopted "from the bottom up." We have "passed" that stage now but in your opinion what pattern most fully corresponds to the interests of our federal state in the economic sphere?

[Rybkin] The pattern adopted in the Russian Constitution. In full accord with the separation of powers. Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, render unto God the things that are God's. The federal center does what it is supposed to do within the framework of those powers outlined in the Constitution. The components of the federation do what they are supposed to do within the constitutional framework too. As for joint jurisdiction, the mechanism for that kind of cooperation has already been established. It seems to me that the time for this question passed long ago. The clarification of relations—trying to establish who is the stronger, the administration or the legislative assembly—is a dead end.

[Kapkov] Nevertheless, tell us in a little more detail about your vision of the future federal organization of Russia. What place will the Federation components have in it? Should we expect a reduction in their number and a change of constitutional status?

[Rybkin] My vision is an optimistic one. I believe that there will be an equalization of the rights and duties of the Federation components—that is an urgent requirement. And I think that we will work consistently to eradicate freeloading in mutual relations. We can no longer allow a 20- and 30-fold discrepancy in grants and subsidies to the territories. I believe that the demand for equality and justice will be the main factor in the regulation of mutual relations among the regions and between the regions and the center. The corresponding legislation is being worked on. We have held quite a few parliamentary hearings in which leaders of the executive

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and legislature of the components of the federation took part. We are looking for the golden mean that is essential in legislation. But all this is being done, I would stress, within the framework of the Constitution.

[Kapkov] But how do you regard the desire of Kaliningrad Oblast, for example, to adopt its own law? I have in mind the law on Kaliningrad Oblast. Is there a future for attempts like that?

[Rybkin] The desire of oblasts, krays, or republics to have their own laws does not contravene the Constitution. Many things can be regulated by normative acts adopted by the legislative assemblies of the Federation components. But the point is this: Some of the laws relating to the regulation of property relations, relations between the Federation and its components, and relations between the Federation components and international partners affect the interests of the whole motherland. But in some Federation components a whole series of agreements have been concluded which have resulted in huge losses for Russia. It is clear why. Sometimes the krays and oblasts do not have enough top-class specialists.

[Kapkov] But there are after all good examples of economic autonomy. In Nizhnyy Novgorod, for instance. Incidentally that was where the idea of oblast governor elections in June 1995 originated. What do you think of the claim that Nizhnyy Novgorod Oblast is the leader of the socioeconomic reforms in Russia?

[Rybkin] My attitude to the idea of the elections of governors—any governor, including in Nizhnyy Novgorod—is positive. Because democracy always means having a choice. As to whether Nizhnyy Novgorod Oblast is the leader in the reforms—yes, the reform of agriculture is making progress there but Nizhnyy Novgorod Oblast does not compare with Volgograd Oblast, Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Kray, or Stavropol Kray in terms of field area or volume of agricultural output.

[Kapkov] I would like to clarify a question. Previously it was said that Russia would develop by means of Siberia, then the Non-Chernozem zone, the Central Chernozem zone, and the Urals. As an agricultural specialist what would you hold up as an example? And in particular, how do you view Central Russia's industrial and agricultural potential?

[Rybkin] I rate the industrial and agricultural potential of Central Russia very highly. I said and will continue to say that it is far from fully tapped. I believe that Moscow Oblast in particular is in many respects an example for the solution of urgent questions in the agrarian sector. And the indicators which are not achieved even by those whom we usually take as our model are the best evidence of that. At many dairy complexes—Shchapovo and Kommunarka, and many others—the milk yield per forage cow is as high as 7,000 kg of milk a year. Such results have not been achieved either by the Baltic republics which have become independent states or by the states on the other side of the Baltic. As for attention from the Federal Assembly, I believe that it is inadequate. I believe that Moscow, Orel, Voronezh, and other oblasts need the closest attention. Almost two-thirds of the world's chernozem lands are in Russia. And if you cannot produce a harvest or support your peasantry, the roots of the nation, on those lands, that is simply criminal. Incidentally, at the Paris Chamber of Weights and Measures they have a representative sample of chernozem soil from the region where I was born—Voronezh Oblast. Our chernozem is capable of feeding not only Russia but half the world as well.

[Kapkov] Nevertheless, it clearly does not all depend on economic potential. Political errors are preventing that potential from being realized right now. You sometimes hear the criticism that the Duma is not cooperating effectively with the president.

[Rybkin] In reply I can say that of the 90 draft laws that the president submitted to the Duma last year and at the start of this year 37 have already adopted by deputies with only two rejected. The rest are being discussed and the Duma is going to examine them all in the months ahead. Our relations with the government are developing in similar fashion. But the Federation Council is not making very active use of its right to initiate legislation at the moment. The Federation components are outdoing it in that regard. The judiciary has submitted only a few draft laws. I could talk about other aspects of the State Duma's activity and its collaboration with the federal organs of power in the form of the president, the government, and the judicial branches of power. I can tell you that a working rhythm has been established in our mutual relations. But that does not mean total forgiveness. As a rule, what happens most often is a constructive, businesslike, effective, and productive contest between one another and it is in that contest that the truth is born.

Regional Affairs

Further Reportage on Situation in Chechnya

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

LD2804195195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1710 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Chechen militants agreed to cease fire, but refused to surrender weapons at talks which were held Friday by the Russian Army force commander in Chechnya Gennadiy Troshev and Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov in Novye Atagi settlement, 30 kilometres south of Groznyy.

Troshev told reporters after the talks that Chechen fighters "agreed to cease fire, did not object to proposals to allow the militants go home and not to persecute those

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who fought against the federal troops, excluding the participants in executions of civilians".

However, according to Troshev, the militants refused to surrender arms and said this may be possible only if Russian troops were withdrawn from Chechnya.

"The militants agreed to observe the moratorium on fighting (decreed by the Russian President) which came into force today", Troshev said, but warned that federal troops will fire back in case the ceasefire is violated.

At the same time Troshev seemed to be sceptical about the prospects of the truce and said the level of the talks was not appropriate to finally settle the issue of ending combat activities. "This is the job of politicians", he said.

Chernomyrdin Favors Truce Extension

LD2904122995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Apr—The head of the Russian government, Viktor Chernomyrdin, believes it can be possible to extend the moratorium for military actions in the Chechen Republic in the period after the May celebrations. He stated this today speaking at the first sitting of the organization committee for the election movement of which he is the leader.

"I have stated and am stating it again," the Russian prime minister stressed, "that we were and are still prepared to conduct negotiations with the armed formations which confront the Russian troops in Chechnya. We are prepared not only for negotiations but also for a cease-fire. We were first to propose the moratorium on military actions and not just for the period between 10 and 11 May. The peace process in the Chechen Republic shoud begin now," stated the head of the Russian government, stressing that Russia's proposal to stop fighting also applies to the period after the May holidays.

Truce Enters Second Day

LD2904065995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0639 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Saturday is the second day of the moratorium on military operations in Chechnya. The moratorium was put in effect by a decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin overnight April 28.

The central event of the first day of the truce were the talks between a representative of the federal troops, Major-General Gennadiy Trochev, and a commander of Dudayev's fighters, Aslan Maskhadov, in Noviye Atagi, 30 km south of Groznyy.

General Troshev told reporters late on Friday that the delegation of the Chechen fighters agreed to comply with the truce, and accepted proposals of federal command that the fighters be let go home without reprisals, except for those who took part in slayings of civilians.

However, the fighters did not agree to lay down their arms before the federal forces pull out of Chechnya.

Federal command is not ruling out the need to strike back if the fighters break the truce.

According to General Troshev, the talks in Noviye Atagi "had not the level at which to decide on final ceasing of the hostilities". Politicians should act now, the general said.

Dudayev Forces Said Violating Truce

LD2904163195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 29 Apr—Federal troops checkpoints in Groznyy, the Chechen capital, were fired on seven times overnight, 24 hours after the introduction of the moratorium on military operations in Chechnya. Two grenades exploded on the grounds of the military commandant's office in Leninskiy District of Groznyy. There were no casualties. A representative of the North Caucasus Military District press center in Groznyy told this to the special ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

According to the representative, Dudayev's fighters are not giving up their attempts to destabilize the situation in the Chechen capital. Aerial reconnaissance today registered a concentration of up to 200 fighters supported by an infantry fighting vehicle in the Staropromyslovskiy District (northeastern [as received] outskirts of Groznyy). Two trucks with armed people were moving in the same direction.

The fighters told Russian servicemen on the radio that they do not intend to observe the conditions of the moratorium and will begin military operations against the federal forces in the very near future.

1 May Cease-Fire Violations Noted

LD0105104095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1036 GMT 1 May 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—Illegal armed formations have been violating a moratorium on fighting in Chechnya. A representative of the press and information department of the Russian defence ministry told Itar-Tass in Groznyy today that militants had been shelling positions of Federal troops mostly at night time, opening gun and mortar fire, which makes it easier for them to change their positions when they retreat.

Dudayev's military commanders were reported to make arrangements to re-distribute forces and hardware as

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they are preparing for military operations. At present, the situation in the area of Groznyy and its neighborhood has become more tense since a considerable number of militants had broken through into the city and subversive terrorist attacks are being made, said the Defence ministry official. After dark, small groups of militants loyal to Dudayev have been making provocative acts with the aim of provoking fire in retaliation to find out the whereabouts of Federal bases. A military source said that on April 30, illegal armed formations opened fire from an air defence machine gun targeted at a helicopter belonging to the Air Force of ground troops. The helicopter was holed at five spots and had to make an emergency landing in Dagestan. None of the crew was hurt. A fire opened in retaliation destroyed the militants' guns.

On Sunday, mortar fire was opened at positions of the 506th motor-rifle regiment and one serviceman was injured. By April 30, a total of 13 incidents had been reported in which servicemen of the Russian army or the Interior troops were attacked. Three people were injured, but no one was killed, said the defence official. The operational command of the Russian defence ministry reported that Federal troops are continuing to replace the army personnel as scheduled, dismissing servicemen whose term of service has expired.

Dudayev Rejects Amnesty Offer

LD2904162795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nesterovskaya (Ingushetia), April 29 (INTERFAX)—Dzhokhar Dudayev declared that "Chechnya's residents and government do not need interim truce, moratorium, or amnesty from Russia." Our Interfax correspondent reports that in a statement voiced in the village of Vedeno (60 kilometers to the south-east from Groznyy) Dudayev said that "Russia's attempts to hold negotiations at the level of elders and separate field commanders will be fruitless."

Dudayev believes that Moscow's efforts are primarily aimed "at demonstration of its peaceable disposition in the face of the world and at deepening collapse in the Chechen society."

Dudayev called to withdraw Russian troops from the Chechen territory. This, he said, "will create appropriate conditions for the return of refugees and preparation for the next elections in the republic scheduled for October 27, 1995."

Villages Shelled 'Despite Cease-Fire'

AU0105081495 Paris AFP in English 0801 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bamut, Russia, May 1 (AFP)—Russian artillery kept up its heavy bombardment of rebel villages in western Chechnya on Monday [1 May] despite a cease-fire declared in Moscow.

Bamut, where independence fighters have been holding out for four months, was hit by hundreds of artillery shells in a barrage that started at dusk on Sunday and lasted until dawn Monday.

Shells exploded in the village at a rate of more than four a minute for several hours and Russian illumination flares burned continuously overhead.

The village, which is deserted except for a handful of guerrillas, was also raked with machinegun fire throughout the night.

There were no casualties.

Frequent flashes of explosions could also be seen around Yandi, another separatist village 10 kilometres (six miles) to the east of Bamut.

President Boris Yeltsin ordered his forces to stop fighting from midnight on Thursday until May 11, although they were to take appropriate measures if fired upon.

Bamut has been heavily shelled every night since the start of the cease-fire.

Small Chechen squads armed with sniper rifles, machineguns and and anti-tank rockets constantly patrolled the outskirts of the village on Monday, but the guerrillas were clearly lying low during the shelling, rather than trying to engage the Russians.

The guerrillas are almost exclusively armed with small arms ideal for street fighting, but largely useless in attacking the Russians' entrenched artillery, multiple-rocket and tank positions outside Bamut.

Government Imposes Curfew on Groznyy

LD0105154395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 1 May 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—The Chechen National Revival Government imposed a curfew in Groznyy on Monday [1 May].

The move followed the government's resolution of April 26 "On Measures to Ensure Law and Order in the City of Groznyy and Protect Citizens from Assaults."

The 21:00-6:00 curfew will be in effect until July 1, 1995, and will be enforced by the federal troops, the headquarters of the Russian troops in Chechnya told Itar-Tass.

OSCE Envoy on Talks Opportunity

LD0105053395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, April 30 (Interfax)—Head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya Sandor Mesaros said that if the moratorium on military actions in

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Chechnya declared by Moscow was extended a real opportunity for holding talks would appear.

He added that both parties were now violating the moratorium.

The OSCE representative told an Interfax correspondent in Nazran today after his meeting with Ingush President Ruslan Aushev that the main task of the OSCE mission was to contribute to ending military actions in Chechnya.

Speaking about violations of the moratorium, the OSCE official said shooting and cannon fire had been registered near the Bamut Village in South-East Chechnya on Saturday.

He said the purpose of the OSCE mission in Chechnya was to examine the situation not only in this republic but also in neighboring Dagestan and Ingushetia where many refugees had gathered.

The OSCE representative said the OSCE missioners in Chechnya had established contacts with the federal power structures and local administrations. He said there were no restrictions for the OSCE mission as far as the freedom of movement and information were concerned.

Speaking about violations of human rights in the conflict zone, the OSCE official said his organization had repeatedly expressed its concern about actions of federal troops "far outgoing the scope of a military operation for ensuring constitutional order." He said the OSCE was specially concerned about innocent civilians suffering.

Troshev, Chechen Commander Meet

LD2904161895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Vladimir Lenskiy] Major General Troshev traveled to the talks in the village of Novyye Atagy, 30 km from Groznyy, on an armored personnel carrier while Chechen Commander Aslan Maskhadov arrived in a jeep with an enormous flag accompanied by submachine-gunners.

The representatives of the Chechen formations agreed to the conditions stated by President Yeltsin for a moratorium on military activity and are ready to cease-fire. The federal command proposed that the fighters be dispersed and sent home, promising not to pursue those who have not fired on civilians. Maskhadov even agreed to this, refusing, it should be said, to surrender weapons until Russia has withdrawn its troops from Chechnya.

[Begin Aslan Maskhadov recording] I am ready to see the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechen territory, then to stop this senseless war. [end recording]

[Lenskiy] Nevertheless, Gen. Troshev says that the talks process is going well although several issues are being resolved very slowly.

[Begin Troshev recording] We are not able to determine the main issues as these are not resolved at our level. [end recording]

[Lenskiy] Troshev thinks that politicians should be more active now. Several Duma deputies have already attended the talks in Novyye Atagy. [video shows men in combat gear outside the building where the talks are taking place]

Prisoner Exchange Deal Worked Out

LD2904163995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, April 28 (Interfax)—The commander of the federal troops on the southern front in Chechnya, General Gennadiy Troshev and the Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov agreed to exchange prisoners of war and wounded during their talks at the Noviye Atagi village of the Shalin region on Friday [28 April].

At the same time, as Ingushetia's State Counselor Pyotr Kosov has reported to Interfax, the Chechen side "has not guaranteed compliance with the moratorium on fighting since, in Maskhadov's opinion, the temporary cease-fire was imposed for propaganda purposes, and the chief condition set by the Chechen side remains to be a Russian troop withdrawal from Chechnya."

Kosov believes that despite the lack of progress at the talks, they can succeed, "if the military meet each other half way after conferring with politicians."

Talks can be continued shortly. "They are essential at least for negotiating the exchange of all prisoners of war," Kosov said.

Dudayev Supporters Surrender Weapons

LD3004214795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 2020 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Nikolay Shebalkov video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The amount of arms and military hardware that Dzhokhar Dudayev's sub-units have is amazing. Let me cite the following fact: It took over 120 KAMAZ trucks to take out arms and ammunition found in the village of Podgornoye in Nadterechnyy District. But this is not all. From the moment federal forces were introduced into Chechnya more than 15 such arsenals have been discovered. In spite of these impressive figures, the officials of the Russian Federal Security Service believe that this is only a small part of the weapons that Dudayev's sub-units possess.

Sub-machine guns like these, which are handmade, show that the production of weapons in Chechen territory was set up on a mass scale. The only thing that is good about this is that a large number of these weapons were surrendered voluntarily.

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[Lieutenant Colonel A. Deryabin] Recently a regimental 120mm rocket launcher was surrendered voluntarily, which we also handed over to the proper authorities. What a life—120mm rocket launchers are being given up! This one was given up voluntarily, but there were others that were taken in the course of military actions. [Video shows a large number of guns stacked against a wall]

Dudayev Interviewed on Peace Options

MK2904124095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 29 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of Chechnya, by Natalya Medvedeva: "'We Shall Not Even Accept Peace.' Dzhokhar Dudayev Hunts the Bear"—datelined southern Chechnya-Moscow, date not given; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After reading this interview, Russian military leaders will think that MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS is offering a rostrum to an enemy. Naturally, the editors do not share Dzhokhar Dudayev's opinion, especially about "Russianism." This interview, first, shows that, contrary to rumors from the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK), Dudayev is alive; and, second, that he has lost touch with reality and that, to put it mildly, it is time for him to take a rest. But the war continues; Chechnya is being bombed; its president is being chased by people from Lubyanka, who do not let him get enough sleep. On the other hand, President Yeltsin can sleep all he likes, but, judging by his actions, one does not get that impression. It is increasingly clear that neither Yeltsin nor Dudayev are capable of achieving peace. The Chechen war, just like other wars, will apparently be stopped not by those who started it.

Meanwhile the elusive mountain dweller travels around the republic, now in his famous Mercedes, now in a no-frills tractor, and he never spends the night twice in the same place. Abu Arsanukayev, his chief bodyguard, always travels several days ahead of the general. They say that Dudayev has not abandoned his habit of hunting in the mountains, and, for example, he came to give this interview after a long bear hunt. The day Natalya Medvedeva conducted this talk, Dudayev, according to rumors from the FSK, "was to have been killed" near the village of Staryy Achkhoy....

[Medvedeva] Dzhokhar Musayevich, do you still intend to conduct peace negotiations with Russian representatives?

[Dudayev] There have been so many answers to this question.... This conflict could have been resolved by peace negotiations only. But, unfortunately, a stage is beginning when the negotiating initiative from our side could run out and a new stage will start when we shall not accept even peace.

Everything has been destroyed! Everything! An unprecedented demonic force is destroying the entire humanity. Cynically, demonstratively smiling.... We cannot put up with this too long, like guinea pigs. Any people must protect itself. [passage omitted]

[Medvedeva] Is any assistance being given from abroad?

[Dudayev] Definitely. We have representations in the whole world. In the United States, in Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Far East. [passage omitted]

In Russia, there is a button with a [nuclear] "football" which is now used to threaten the world. Soon this button will be activated unless mankind cures Russia of "Russianism." Not necessarily in Chechnya—also in Ukraine, primarily in Europe.

[Medvedeva] Today Groznyy is, to all intents and purposes, destroyed. Do you think it will remain Chechnya's capital or will the capital be moved to another place?

[Dudayev] First, a project for an administrative-political center has been prepared by three leading world firms. This year we were to have started building this center.

The legal government has been prevented from exercising its functions. On this issue a corresponding decision has been made by the OSCE in the European Council: Before the constitutional system and the legal government are restored, they will have no business to do with Russia. What is to be done with the city? The government, the people will study the situation. Possibly, we shall leave it as a monument to a vandalism unheard-of in history, and will open the door to all tourists and scientists as a warning to future aggressors.

[Medvedeva] What do you think of Yeltsin?

[Dudayev] Why should I bother and think about him? You think about your president yourselves.

[Medvedeva] What do you expect from the elections?

[Dudayev] Which elections?

[Medvedeva] They say this year elections will be held in Chechnya.

[Dudayev] Ha, ha, ha.

One-Third of Population Said Refugees

MK2904133095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Mariya Eysmont under the "Migration" rubric: "One-Third of the Chechen Population are Refugees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today 360,000 forced resettlers from Chechnya have been registered in Russia. The total number of refugees from the region exceeds 450,000, Yuriy Roshchin, first deputy chief of the Russian Federal Migration Service, said. Thus, given that Chechnya's pre-war population was 1.3 million, one may

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safely conclude that one-third of the republic's population has emigrated to other regions of the Russian Federation.

The influx of Chechen refugees into border areas causes extra difficulties for these regions. In Dagestan, for instance, the overpopulation of certain areas may trigger a new outbreak of cholera; North Ossetia has already absorbed over 100,000 refugees from the area of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and another 46,000 from the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone. In Ingushetia, Mr. Roshchin said, the most difficult situation still exists regarding the accommodation of forced resettlers arriving from Chechnya: Newly formed Ingushetia, which has already accepted several tens of thousands of refugees from Prigorodnyy Rayon, does not have the requisite number of administrative buildings. Those who cannot find a berth in school and college gyms have to live in one of 1,150 "car houses" that have already been set up on Ingush territory.

Such (reserved-seat) cars will also be brought to Groznyy, where three large squares have already been prepared especially for this purpose. In addition, the Federal Migration Service [FMS] has already set up five centers in Groznyy, each designed to accommodate 5,000 people.

Those who do not want to be passengers in a reserved-seat railway car for a long time have been invited to rebuild their homes on their own under the state "Housing" program, work for which they will be paid by the state, while building materials will be provided for free.

There is also a problem involving those who do not want to return (according to the FMS, there are at least 100,000 such people). All the FMS can offer them, Mr. Roshchin said, is a one-time "small cash benefit" and also a free one-way train ticket to a destination they choose.

In response to the FMS' request for 1.9 trillion rubles the government has so far released 913 billion.

360,000 Chechen Refugees Registered

LD2804163895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—The number of registered refugees from Chechnya since the outbreak of fighting there last December runs at 360,000, First Deputy Head of the Federal Migration Service (FMS) Yuriy Rotschin told reporters in Moscow on Friday [28 April].

Referring to expert opinion, he said there were about 100,000 unregistered forced resettlers.

According to FMS, 80 percent of displaced people are ethnic Russians with Ukrainians and Armenians making up 3 percent and 5.5 percent each.

Over 53 percent of Chechen migrants remain in the region with more than 150,000 of them concentrating in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia. About 30

headed for Stavropol and Krasnodar territories and Rostov region. Many went to Volgograd, Saratov, Belgorod and Voronezh regions.

Rotschin said an estimated 100,000-120,000 refugees do not want to return to their homes though many others plan to go back to Chechnya.

Up to 5,000 refugees arrive in Chechnya daily, according to FMS. Rotschin said that a network of temporary homes was opened in the republic to take care of about 65,000 refugees.

Civilian Flights Resume From Groznyy

LD2904190395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1500 GMT on 29 April broadcasts a three-minute report from the "Segodnya" program, in which correspondent Aleksandr Abramenko says that regular civilian flights from Groznyy resumed on 29 April after a two-year interval. There are to be two flights a week between Groznyy and Rostov-on-Don by the Donavia air company.

Donavia general director Pavel Duzhnikov said that at present passengers need special permission to gain a seat on the plane. Top priority is given to people involved in reconstructing Groznyy while "internal affairs specialists who keep law and order in Groznyy" take second place, Duzhnikov said, adding that of course the military are also given seats.

The company is using the most experienced pilots for the flights, Abramenko reported. The lack of telephone communication with Groznyy causes problems but the pilots can get information about navigation conditions from military sources.

Groznyy is again without electricity, telecommunications, TV and radio, according to Abramenko, "but nevertheless people here think that life is returning to normal."

Telephone Exchanges Restored

LD0105120595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 1 May 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—Telephone exchanges destroyed during fighting in Chechnya are being restored. Today, new telephone exchanges have been put into operation in four regional centers of the republic: Argun, Shali, Gudermes and Urus- Martan. The telephone exchanges can put local telephone callers through to any Russian city or any city of the Commonwealth, as well as to regional Chechen

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centers of Znamenskoye, Naurskaya and Schelkovsksya, Itar-Tass learned from the press center of the Federal bodies of executive power in charge of these territories. It was pointed out that in the near future several telephone exchanges would open in several areas of Groznyy, including the Severny airport. In June, telephone communication is expected to be established with all regional centers of Chechnya.

Population, Services Returning

MM0105141795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 95 Weekend Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Life Goes On"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An enlarged session of the government of national rebirth of the Chechen Republic was held in Groznyy yesterday with the participation of members of the Russian Federation State Commission for the Restoration of Chechnya's Economy and Social Sphere. It was chaired by Salambek Khadzhiyev, head of the Chechen Cabinet of Ministers.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Mikhaylov, leader of the Russian Federation State Commission's information group, reported that approximately 500 people are now returning to the Chechen capital every day. The city's population has already reached 250,000. Russian specialists have rebuilt 111.5 km of power transmission lines and 207 km of gas supply lines. The railroad from Groznyy to Mineralnyye Vody has been opened for daily traffic.

In Groznyy 85 trading points are now operating, Mikhaylov went on to report. Foodstuffs worth a total of 16.3 billion rubles [R] have been brought into the Chechen capital. Three city hospitals and 39 general educational schools are functioning. Over 30,000 people have received essential inoculations.

To date wage arrears have been paid to the inhabitants of Chechnya in the overall sum of R2.7 billion, plus R10.4 billion in pensions, Mikhaylov pointed out. In addition, according to his data, an extra R380 million has been transferred to Great Patriotic War veterans in time for the upcoming Victory Day.

Dudayev Forces 'Try To Foil' Restoration

LD0105145595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1407 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, May 1 (Interfax)—By continuous attacks on federal troops in Groznyy and other places Dudayev's militants try to foil restoration operations in Chechnya, Interfax was told at the press center of the joint command of the federal force in Chechnya.

According to it, restoration operations in the capital alone involve as many as 4000 people (military and civilian builders, local residents): 900 clear the debris, 800 restore power transmission lines, 400 the gas pipeline and 150 water supplies.

Direct rail traffic has resumed between Groznyy and Mineralnye Vody. Commuter trains in the city suburbs run three times a day. 40 buses operate on 15 routes. 85 stores are functioning.

R15 Billion Spent on Restoration

LD2904211895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Statistics Committee has announced that since the beginning of the year various Russian Ministries have already spent about 15 billion rubles from the federal budget on reconstruction work in Chechnya.

Chechen Prosecutor's Appeal to Dudayev Cited

MM2804140795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 95 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Feature by Valentin Maslennikov: "Bandits in Police Uniform. Members of Chechnya's Power Bodies Committed Unlawful Actions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Increasingly frequent attempts to get to the root of the Chechen crisis have been made in the mass media in recent days. We have obtained a rare document making it possible to go some way toward establishing the reasons for the crisis. It is a letter from Usman Imayev, minister of justice and general prosecutor of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, to President Dzhokhar Dudayev, dated November last year, that is, from before the first shots of the Russian-Chechen armed conflict were fired.

We asked Vladimir Kirakozov, chief of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office Administration for Supervising the Investigation of Crimes, to comment on this letter. Vladimir Ivanovich felt it necessary to make the following preliminary point:

"The document in question is interesting precisely because it is written by someone loyal to Dudayev, a stooge and supporter. However, I would immediately like to make it clear that, from the point of view of Russian legislation, Usman Imayev is not legally prosecutor. He was not appointed to this post by the Russian general prosecutor, but is there at the will of the illegal president of the Republic of Ichkeria, which has unlawfully declared independence. Nevertheless, his opinion cannot be ignored, because he is actively involved in the current events."

So, let us hand over to Usman Imayev (Footnote) (Because of the shortage of space in the newspaper, we have been forced to abridge part of the letter. Extracts from Imayev's letter are set in boldface type):

The Ministry of Justice of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria is seriously concerned by the increasing number

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of cases of robbery and gangsterism on the part of power ministries, placing the population in a hopeless situation....

(Here the prosecutor cites incontrovertible evidence of criminal conduct by members of the local special-purpose police detachment with the connivance of the republic's MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and DGB [Department of State Security]. Robbery, bribery, extortion, the taking of hostages, and the embezzlement of petroleum products—this is the list of "exploits" by Dudayev's special-purpose police detachment under the command of S. Bashkayev. He cites specific dates and names and lists property stolen and embezzled. In particular, he describes how Bashkayev protects known murderers who have confessed to committing their crimes and shields them from prosecution.)

...The above examples are only a fraction of the unlawful actions committed by members of power structures....

(Here Imayev draws his president's attention to how Bashkayev demonstrates his loyalty to Dudayev every day on local television. The prosecutor warns that this is just a hypocritical game calculated to ensure that his actions continue to go unpunished.)

...The same game is played by the leaders of other military formations which are essentially bandit formations.

The prosecutor's office is forced to go along with this game, because its documents are not implemented and their implementation is not ensured....

(He goes on to cite a typical example, where members of the "Borz" special-purpose regiment arrested for carrying out an armed robbery on a shepherd's farm and stealing 30 sheep were shielded from criminal charges by the regiment command on the pretext of the "need to protect the republic against danger from outside.")

In this situation, the only body on which the prosecutor's office could rely in normal circumstances is the Chechen DGB, but in this department too the state of affairs is unsatisfactory....

(He cites two murders of DGB officers as an example.)

Neither of these cases was promptly reported to the prosecutor's office, and in neither case did the DGB allow the prosecutor's office to carry out an urgent investigation. Moreover, it was prevented from taking action by the threat of the use of arms.

The fact that none of the presidential edicts on the DGB has been implemented is evidence that this is not just stubbornness on the part of incompetent rank and file personnel, but a directive issued by the DGB leadership.

For example, the following requirements of Edict No. 82 of 11 May 1994 are being ignored: Any change to the measure to secure an arrestee's appearance in court must be sanctioned by three leaders (from the prosecutor's office, the MVD, and the DGB); and cases brought by the DGB cannot be transferred to other investigative components....

(In reality, detainees are released in breach of the edict and their criminal actions are assessed arbitrarily.)

The case against Sardalov and Avturkhanov (Footnote) (The reference is to the opposition's November attempt to overthrow Dudayev's regime), whose actions were classified as gangsterism, although this was known to be invalid, as they were obviously involved in a conspiracy to seize power, was sent to the prosecutor's office 17 November 1994 in breach of this edict. The following edicts have been ignored: Edict No. 188 of 18 September 1994 "On the Abolition of the IVS [expansion unknown] and the DGB of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria" (unlawful detentions in the DGB continue) and Edict No. 180 of 25 September 1994 "On the Payment of Bail Money into the Deposit Account of the Ministry of Justice of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria" (not one ruble of bail money has been transferred to this account), which gives grounds to conclude that bribes are being accepted under the guise of bail or that bail money is being disposed of as if it were bribes. Normative acts which are not enforced are worse than provocation, because the enforcing agent—the prosecutor's office in this case—is then in a worse position. Demands by the prosecutor's office that there be an official inquiry into the aforementioned crimes committed by members of power structures have been ignored for months, and the persons concerned have not been removed from office. As indicated above, even cases where these persons refuse to explain their actions meet with no response from their superiors, who fail to draw conclusions and adopt measures. All this means that persons who have committed or do commit serious crimes take cover in armed formations or in power structures. Numerous examples of this have been cited in documents previously addressed to you. It is clear from the above that eliminating these problems depends on the discipline, exactingness, and efficiency of the MVD and DGB leadership. The Ministry of Justice and the prosecutor's office have no means of forcing these structures to observe and implement the law, other than to raise the question of the responsibility of their leadership with you. None of the questions raised with you has been resolved. Moreover, persons the question of whose responsibility has been raised with you are being promoted. For example, on 1 November 1993 you were sent a decree on punishing the MVD leadership for failing to punish members of the Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department in connection with the case of the armed attack by S. Shadukayev on the rayon internal affairs department. The decree has remained unanswered. Shadukayev has since been appointed chief of the Urus-Martanovskiy and Achkhoy-Martanovskiy Rayon DGB Department. This is not an isolated case. You failed to take measures in response to a representation made by investigator L.G. Zukhayrayev 22 July 1993 in connection with the case against R.A. Davlayev, charged with robbery and assault against Leontyev. Davlayev took refuge on the

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territory of an Afghan battalion and the investigator was prevented from conducting his investigation when he was threatened with the use of arms against his person. Moreover, in accordance with your Edict No. 49 of 13 April 1994, any criminal who enters a military unit is out of reach of investigation, because the commander himself is out of reach; his activity can be checked only with your written consent. You now possess unlimited rights. These rights are matched by excessive obligations and responsibilities, failure to fulfill which paralyzes the work of law enforcement bodies as a whole. The frequent change of leaders of law enforcement bodies (nine general prosecutors have been replaced during your time) and the impossibility of your fulfilling your obligations do not solve any problems and are only detrimental to our work. The above demands the adoption of exhaustive measures to stop criminal activity by members of power structures without delay. 24 November 1994 (Signature)

Vladimir Kirakozov Comments:

We are faced with an unsuccessful attempt to stop the lawlessness by appealing to the republic's supreme leadership and an unanswered entreaty to think again.

As far as I am aware, Dzhokhar Dudayev trusted Imayev until recently and sent him to various negotiations as his own personal representative. But, as we can see, he was only using him as an instrument of his will and certainly did not encourage any initiative on his part. The fact that he paid no attention to this serious document prepared by Imayev is just further confirmation of the maliciousness of Dudayev's actions.

The system that existed in Chechnya, which was essentially gangsterism, was very consciously modeled by Dudayev. He created it and relied on it. Consequently there was no point expecting any kind of proper response to alarm signals. They were more likely to have had the opposite effect. If Russian troops had not begun combat operations, Usman Imayev would have joined his predecessors and become 10th on the list of overthrown prosecutors.

We often call Dudayev's regime illegal. This is not an adequate description. Facts now known to all, which have been quite fully published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and broadly presented in two issues of the White Paper prepared by FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] officers, provide every justification for concluding that we are faced with a **gang**, that is, a stable criminal group organized to commit one or several crimes.

Even before combat operations began, the bloodthirsty general had hundreds, if not thousands of innocent victims on his conscience. There was no legitimate trial in Chechnya, only the tyranny of gangsters. It cannot be denied that the "meting out of punishment" was excellently organized. We have analyzed some 200 so-called "cases" which have come to us. You are dumbfounded when you read some of them. Let me give you just one example. Dudayev's "law enforcement officers" burst into a garage and demanded 15 cars for their own needs. Naturally, the director refused. He was immediately arrested and no one knows what has become of him. That was "justice Dudayev-style."

There was no law enforcement system in Chechnya as such. Bandit formations united by the criminal will of their leader operated in the guise of the police, the special-purpose police detachment, and the DGB. This is particularly obvious now, when work has begun in the republic to restore law enforcement bodies.

There are a mass of complications. The police system has been partially restored in liberated rayons. Prosecutors have been appointed in most rayons. We take a realistic view of the situation and do not expect any great results from their work at present. People are frightened. Those who have agreed to fill these posts feel themselves to be hostages at the very least.

The responsibilities of acting republic prosecutor have been entrusted to an experienced lawyer, Bek Boskhanov. In general, however, oversight by the prosecutor's office of compliance with the law in imposing order in Chechnya is being conducted through several channels at once. First, the military prosecutor's office is working flat-out. The Groznyy garrison prosecutor is supervising the investigation of military crimes. Second, the Interregional North Caucasus Prosecutor's Office (currently headed by Yuriy Dzhapov) is now focusing on Chechnya. It was originally set up to ensure legality in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone, and now it also has its sights on Chechnya. Third, a leading official from the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is almost permanently in Groznyy, helping to organize the work of the republic prosecutor's office.

Consequently, all action now being taken by the Army, the MVD, and the FSK (now the FSB [Federal Security Service]) is very strictly monitored by prosecutors. A great deal of work is being done to investigate the crimes of Dudayev's followers. An enormous amount of work, in fact. Hundreds of criminal cases relating to specific crimes have already been initiated. This is being done by the appropriate bodies of the MVD and the FSK.

As for the question of interest to us all—the institution of criminal proceedings against Dzhokhar Dudayev himself—here the situation is more complex. Many mass media have reported that he has been charged under several articles of the Criminal Code. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office has issued a decree on the choice of method of securing appearance in court: Arrest. But it is one thing to issue a decree and another to actually catch the man. So far, those responsible for doing this are proving unequal to the task. Dudayev is an experienced general who has seen action and is surrounded by sufficiently skilled people who used to work in the MVD and state security. They are apparently rather more professional than those trying to catch them. At present, the odds are not in favor of Russian

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law enforcement bodies. However, as the law and order zone is extended, it will become increasingly difficult for the general to hide. I do not think he will succeed in evading punishment.

From the Editorial Office:

For a rampant bandit appeals to observe the law are clearly inappropriate. But that is what the Chechen prosecutor tried to do. It failed to have the planned effect. The letter to the president is further documentary confirmation of the criminal nature of Dudayev's regime. Moreover, it is very convincing, because it was written not by someone opposed to the Chechen leader, but by one of his comrades.

The closing lines of Usman Imayev's letter are striking: On the basis of concrete facts, the prosecutor concludes that Dudayev is clearly failing to cope with his duties. As life has shown, the unlimited rights which the minidictator arrogated to himself demanded that he discharge duties that he were beyond his ability and live up to enormous responsibilities. All of this was beyond the ex-general.

The attempt at unlimited power was also made by unfit means. Dudayev's reliance on criminals meant counting on a force clearly unsuited to fulfilling functions of power. It led to bloodshed, suffering, and grief for many thousands of people.

Situation in Ossetia, Ingushetia Said Tense

LD2904194595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, April 29 (Itar-Tass)—The situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict remains tense, but controllable, military sources said on Saturday.

No incidents or armed ethnic clashes were reported in the area over the past 24 hours. On the whole, Russian troops and local law- enforcement bodies control the situation, the sources said.

At the same time, the situation in the Prigorodny district of Ossetia, where refugees are returning, remains difficult. The residents of some villages issue ultimatums and demand that refugees stay away from their settlements.

Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the provisional committee set up by the Russian government to cope with the consequences of the Ossetian- Ingush conflict, said that the situation in the Prigorodny district may worsen if the authorities fail to solve two major tasks—facilitate the return of refugees to four villages designated for them and ensure their security.

Lozovoy pointed out that the events in neighbouring Chechnya also have a negative impact on the situation in the region. Weapons and drugs flow from Chechnya into the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, where Chechen emissaries have been actively recruiting terrorists, he said.

Stavropol, N. Ossetia Sign Friendship Treaty

LD0105123495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 1 May 95

[By Nikolay Styazhkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stavropol, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—The Stavropol region and North Ossetia, neighbours in the multinational North Caucasian region, have marked the May day by signing a treaty on friendship and cooperation. The treaty was signed by the governor of the Stavropol region Yevgeniy Kuznetsov and president of North Ossetia (Alania) Akhsarbek Galazov.

Alania intends to sign similar agreements on friendship and cooperation with the Don, Kuban regions, all North Caucasian republics, including Chechnya and Ingushetia. This will favourably affect the process of general stabilisation in the North Caucasus and will make a major contribution to the settlement of long- standing Chechen and Ingush-Ossetian conflicts, said Galazov during a signing ceremony.

Simultaneously, a signing ceremony was held between representatives of the Stavropol region and Kalmykia, who signed a similar treaty as well. The treaty was signed by the president of Kalmykia Kirsan Illumzhiniov and the governor of the Stavropol region,Yevgeny Kuznetsov. Kuznetsov said that for the past two years the Stavropol region had signed similar agreements with Daghestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachajevo-Cherkessia. Kuznetsov pointed out that the treaty signed with Kalmykia completed the realization of a comprehensive programme of establishment and development of direct mutually advantageous cooperation with all neighbours in the region.

Yeltsin Message to Cossack Commander Conference

LD0105060695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a welcome message to the Emergency Congress of Russian Cossack Military Commanders which opened today.

Yeltsin said Cossacks were always playing a special role in Russia's life. "Free plough-men and fighters, they were exploring new territories. They were the first to meet the enemy at distant positions and were defeating the enemy during wars."

Yeltsin said Cossacks always remained loyal to their Fatherland, oath and military duty. He said Cossacks "had to pay a terrible price" for this. "Mourning the massive losses occurred during the infamous process of

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eliminating Cossack organizations, new Russia has restored Cossacks in their rights."

The president said the Council of Russian Cossack Military Commanders faced "a noble and responsible task: to unite Russian Cossacks and renew their best traditions."

Cossack Council Agrees on Unity

LD0105073095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0337 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—Cossack atamans (heads) from 59 regions of Russia have agreed to do away with all differences existing between various Cossack formations "for the sake of consolidation to serve people and fatherland."

The agreement was reflected in the treaty "On Unity and Accord of the Cossack Community of Russia" adopted by a Russian Atamans' Council in Moscow Sunday. The council was attended by 132 atamans from Cossack troops, sectors, districts and other formations.

According to a press release, the council proposed all Cossacks of Russia "make the next step on the way towards unification, to hold a nationwide consolidating Cossack assembly in Moscow on June 12, 1995."

The council showed that the Cossack spirit was alive despite 80 years of intimidation and persecution. "In the first place, it is the aspiration to serve the fatherland, protect its security and territorial integrity," according to the document.

The statement stipulated that "granting the service in Cossack formations the status of civil service is one of the top priorities of the Cossack revival movement."

Tatar Premier: Regions To Support Chernomyrdin

LD0105072795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0337 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan, April 30 (Interfax-Eurasia)—Tatar Prime Minister Farid Mukhametshin believes that the right-centrist bloc led by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will be backed by regional power structures, he told Interfax. According to him, the creation of this election bloc "will help cut off extreme forces, which attempt to actively influence the election campaign to both the federal parliament and of the president".

"The bloc will have a broad support if it proposes a realistic and serious program of overcoming the crisis and shows the ability to take concrete steps today," said Mukhametshin. He said that nothing prevents the bloc, which is in power today, to carry out active reforms.

Tatarstan's Registration Rules Said To Limit Freedom

MK2904121095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Andrey Gogolev, Dmitriy Kamyshev: "An Uninvited Guest Is Worse Than a Citizen of Tataria" (pun on Russian proverb "An uninvited guest is worse than a Tatar")]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago the Tataria Council of Ministers made its humble contribution to the struggle against the freedom of movement on the territory of Russia which is being conducted by local chiefs in various parts of the country. The government approved rules for the registration of citizens continuously living outside Russia but within the borders of the former USSR, arriving in the republic. The rules take effect immediately after the May holidays.

Because Kazan was far from the first among Russian regions to embark on the path of war against aliens, Tataria's authorities decided to avoid being original, and faithfully copied the main propositions of numerous other analogous documents. As of now all guests to Tataria—citizens of the hitherto fraternal republics—must begin their visit by registering with competent bodies, for which they will be charged a fee in the amount of 10 percent of the minimum wage. This sum, however, does not limit their contribution to Tataria's prosperity because for each day of presence in the republic, visitors will have to pay another 5 percent. If foreigners, in spite of such a cordial reception, can bear the masters' hospitality for more than 45 days, they will have to re-register.

The quite understandable wish of the Tataria authorities to cash in slightly on non-Russian [nerossiyskikh] representatives of the "multi-ethnic Soviet people" nonetheless does not extend to 13 categories of citizens. These include transit passengers, children and minors under age 18, war veterans, group 1 and 2 invalids, close relatives of Tataria residents, and also college aspirants and correspondence students for the period of examination sessions. The Tataria authorities did not forget about members of various delegations, and refugees.

Against the eventuality that the income from law-abiding visitors prove to be not high enough, the authorities envisioned a possibility to made good on those violating the regime. Incidentally, a small delay over the decree's coming into force, according to sources close to the government, was due to the fact that a Tataria presidential edict is pending which establishes penalties for failure to comply with the registration rules (from a warning to a fine of 20 times the minimum wage). The edict also defines procedures for the distribution of funds received from registration (25 percent to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and 75 percent to local budgets), which should supposedly encourage the competent bodies toward an ever more active search for visitors shirking the fulfillment of their sacred duty.

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The bodies themselves were deeply satisfied with the new rules. As Mars Sabirov, chief of the Tataria Ministry of Internal Affairs Passport and Visa Service, said in an interview with KOMMERSANT-DAILY's correspondent, this document has become a kind of golden mean among 38 similar decrees adopted in Russia's regions. According to Sabirov, the Tataria option has proved to be the mildest: The scope of persons exempted from paying the fees is the largest, while registration charges are among the lowest. Therefore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs representative believes, there can be no question about any violation of humans rights and freedoms. True, if CIS citizens together with people from the Baltics are not considered to be human in Tataria, then apparently this is really so.

Run-Off Elections in Abakan Reported Valid

LD2904160895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Yevgeny Sobetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ABAKAN, April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Residents of Abakan, administrative center of the republic of Khakassia, went to polling stations in run-off elections on Saturday [29 April] to elect the head of the local administration and deputies to the city council.

The turnout was 56 per cent and the elections were reported valid. Under the law, elections are considered valid if the turnout is 50 percent plus one vote.

The first round of elections in February 26 was two percent short for the elections to be valid and only five out of 15 deputies were elected.

The second round of elections is being monitored by First Deputy Chairman of the Russian State Duma Mikhail Mityukov.

Trans-Siberian Railroad Traffic Resumes

LD0105090195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 1 May 95

[By Andrey Fomin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chita, May 1 (Itar-Tass)—Railway traffic has been resumed today on the Chita section of the Trans- Siberian Railway following an accident Sunday when an oil tanker was derailed after it had run at full speed into an excavator left on the railway track. Three people were killed in the accident. Several oil tanks and a locomotive engine burnt down. A communication cable, a power cable controlling signals and auto stops and a upper part of the railroad were destroyed to a distance of 200 meters. Three fire fighting trains, emergency teams from the Ministry for emergency situations and servicemen of the Russian army took part in clean-up operations.

An investigation into the causes of the accident, which occurred at Kuka railway station 50 kilometers west of Chita at noon Sunday, was launched today by a special commission led by first deputy minister of the Russian railways, Oleg Moshenko. The ministry of the Russian railways reported that 13 oil tanks containing crude oil and a locomotive engine had been derailed and overturned as a result of a collision of the train with an excavator. Ten oil tanks caught fire and three people, including engine drivers, were killed. Deputy railways minister Yuriy Gerasimov told Itar-Tass that the excavator- a property of the "Transstroi" association, which was on the track when the train ran into it, had been operating near the railway track without permission. Gerasimov said that by now, all the fire fighting and clean-up facilities available, including fire fighting trains of the Baykal railways, are at the disposal of emergency teams operating in the area of the accident. According to Gerasimov, the fire had been eliminated by 18:00 Moscow time Sunday and clean-up operations began. No houses situated nearby were affected. Investigators from the transport prosecutor's office and Federal security service are continuing the investigation in the area of the accident. Construction workers who had operated the excavator which caused the accident have been detained.

Economic Issues

President Grants Partial Oil Export Exemptions

MK2904120095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Vadim Bardin: "The IMF Has Canceled. Eximbank Has Reinstated. The President Has Signed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict "On Support for Priority Investment Projects Financed in Line with the Russian-U.S. Framework Agreement for the Russian Oil and Gas Industry." Enterprises in Russia's oil and gas complex, which have received credits from Eximbank, have been exempted from the obligatory sale of part of their hard currency proceeds from the export of oil and oil products. What KOMMERSANT-DAILY predicted has come about: Foreign economic exemptions are returning.

Barely two months have passed after the edict "On Deeming Null and Void and on Canceling the President's Decisions Granting Customs Exemptions," which was issued under IMF pressure, in which the president moderated his intransigent position on exemptions. The turnaround toward exemptions has this time occurred at Eximbank's initiative. True, there is no direct contradiction between the two edicts: New exemptions are not related to customs exemptions and therefore do not cause direct damage to the budget.

Judging by statements from representatives of the Fuel and Energy Ministry circulated by the OIL NEWS AGENCY, the absence of exemptions braked the realization of credit lines by the U.S. Eximbank, opened in

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correspondence with the framework agreement on oil and gas, which the bank concluded with the Fuel and Energy Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank in July 1993 (under this agreement, equipment bought with credits granted the Russian Government is not subject to value added tax or to the special tax).

Exemptions on hard currency proceeds alone, however, will hardly help revive the frozen credits. In its time Eximbank managed to obtain targeted reductions in import duties for equipment imported with credits granted, thus cutting off Russian producers of oil equipment from these projects, while last year the oil producers had a full set of tariff and hard currency exemptions. Compared to this scale, a repeat exemption from mandatory hard currency sales looks rather modest. After all, it is fairly easy to hedge against currency risks related to the sale of hard currency for rubles: Nobody forbids the purchase of the same currency that has been sold. In all likelihood, this is only compensation for the refusal to grant customs exemptions on which Eximbank representatives certainly insisted at the negotiations in Moscow in February 1995.

Meanwhile the reopening of a gap in the currency law will have implications for Russian exchange rate policy. As is known, the government does not rule out the possibility of switching over to a "flexible fixed rate" in the middle of this year, if inflation obediently follows the course prescribed to it. The policy of a fixed (with a particular level of stringency) rate envisions, as a matter of principle, a switch-over to a 100-percent sale of export hard currency earnings. This means that there must be no gaps like those the edict opens for Eximbank projects. Therefore either the exemptions will be short-lived or the rate will not be fixed, or the oil producers will become a transit station for pumping hard currency abroad.

Yeltsin's Edict on Protection of Investors Viewed

MM2704141695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Vasiliy Kononenko and Yaroslav Shimov: "B. Yeltsin Pursues War Against Financial Swindlers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 April President Yeltsin signed the edict "On Protecting Investors' Interests and Regulating the Activity of Corporate Bodies Working in the Financial Market Without a License." This is yet another attempt to resolve the problem of financial speculation which, according to various estimates, has claimed between 5 million and 24 million victims recently.

It is well known that work on the new edict began on Yeltsin's instructions back at the end of last year. The working group includes A. Chubays' people, the staff of A. Livshits, the president's aide for economic questions, and also representatives of the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of the Economy, the Internal Affairs Ministry, and the Federal Security Service. IZVESTIYA was told by Aleksandr Livshits that the new edict's main purpose is to prevent illegal dealings with shares and citizens' bank deposits. It also relates to those banks and finance companies which do not yet have the relevant license.

It is characteristic that in summer last year the president issued a similar edict which gave such firms until 1 January 1995 to obtain a banking license. Nevertheless, the number of firms without a license remains unchanged to this day. What is more, some of them,like Khoper-Invest for example, have even exploited the edict's license requirement to withhold payments to investors until they have obtained a license.

The president's new decision also obliges the Federal Commission on Securities and the Stock Market to submit draft edicts on investment share funds and investment brokers. According to A. Livshits, they will be ready in about a month.

Investors in financial companies now have an opportunity to protect their savings against inflation: The president has instructed the Central Bank to pay interest on funds confiscated from crooked firms or legally declared bankrupts as well as the proceeds from the sale of confiscated property. The 1989 instruction which prevented law enforcement agencies from returning confiscated resources before the completion of an investigation and the enforcement of a court ruling has also been amended. In addition, it has been decided to submit a draft law to the State Duma enabling the Prosecutor's Office, the Central Bank, the taxation service, and certain other departments to apply for the prior seizure of the accounts and property of companies operating without a license.

The president has set a three-months deadline for the whole campaign against financial crooks. However, bearing in mind that the new edict is by no means the authorities' first attempt to impose order in the financial market, the likelihood of such a speedy victory must be open to doubt: Proper legislation protecting private investors against crooks does not exist yet and the organs of the Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market, which has had full power to oversee the financial market since last fall, have not been fully formed yet. Meanwhile, the situation is getting worse and increasingly often disappointed investors have been organizing protest actions, putting forward not just economic demands but political ones, too.

Finance Minister on 1st Quarter Budget Results

LD2904213495 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Interview with Finance Minister Panskov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] A government sitting scheduled for today has been canceled because most of the cabinet members preferred to engage in politics and were busy

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setting up an electoral block. However, the finance minister was not among them. While the organizational committee of the electoral block was holding a meeting in Volynskoye, Vladimir Panskov was giving an exclusive interview to the Vremya program on the results of the implementation of the budget in the first quarter of 1995.

[Panskov] In general the results are encouraging. These results are due to the economic situation presently emerging in the Russian Federation. For the first time in three years we managed to obtain the budgetary income in full.

[Correspondent] Despite the fact that there have been certain expenditure problems, the so-called budget-financed sectors were the first to be paid. Student allotments and wages to the military and the militia have been paid in full. The situation with physicians' and teachers' wages is worse, because schools and hospitals are now financed by local authorities who do not always have the necessary resources. The Russian Government is forced to intervene by providing the provinces with credit to pay wages. However, the provinces must later pay the debts back to the federal budget, just like the pension funds, which will also have to pay back the center.

[Panskov] Problems with pensions started as early as April, when the payment of pensions was delayed in certain regions. First we gave a 200 billion rubles credit at the beginning of April, and another R300 billion at the end of April. I think that this situation will stabilize in May.

[Correspondent] The government has owed a debt to the defense industry since last year. Again, this means unpaid wages, reduced funding for research, military technology and weapons, as well as for the state defense order. At present, 500 billion rubles have already been paid off from the total debt of more than 1 trillion rubles.

Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov believes that the government has found a way to solve the financial problems of another Russian industry in crisis, the coal industry.

[Panskov] As for the coal industry, we have a clear agreement with the relevant trade union bodies, such as the independent trade unions of coal workers, and with miners. This means that there is a schedule for financial contributions from the budget for the expenses which we have an obligation to finance. We are following this schedule very strictly. We have even slightly exceeded it in the first quarter, and I promise that we will follow it in the second quarter as well.

[Correspondent] Despite all of the budgetary difficulties, the government believes that inflation will stabilize, having slowed down from the January rate of 18 percent to an 8 percent rate in April. At the same time....

[Panskov] We are not satisfied at all. We believe that this process will go much further. The rate of inflation will slow down, and in the second half of the year we will finally be able to provide a 2 percent rate.

[Correspondent] When the government published the budget last year, it was said that the budget was harsh. The finance minister agrees with this description, pointing out however, that although the budget is harsh, it is not cruel.

Finance Ministry Reports Inflation 'Beaten Down'

LD0105053895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 30 (Interfax)—The monetary and crediting policy, pursued by the Cabinet in 1995, has beaten down inflation and slowed down the growth of consumer prices, says the official report by the press service of the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank.

In the estimate of the Finance Ministry, in April, consumer prices are expected to increase by 8% (compared to 17.8 percent in January 1994, 11% in February 1995 and 8.9% in March 1995).

The federal revenues amounted to 32.1 trillion rubles and spending to 39.7 trillion rubles in the first quarter of the year. The deficit amounted to 7.6 trillion rubles (3.3% of the gross domestic product;the planned figure being 5%).

To cover the deficit of the federal budget, non-inflation measures were used in the first quarter of the year, such as the issue of state short-term bonds and technical credits.

The Finance Ministry is planning to broaden the secondary financial market.

State short-term bonds will be a major instrument of shaping the domestic state debt in 1995, and are expected to bring in an income of 20 trillion rubles. The share of six-month and twelve-month bonds is expected to increase in the general short-term debt. Over the first four months of 1995 the income gained from issuing state short-term bonds amounted to 5.4 trillion rubles.

A favorable forecast for the implementation of the federal budget during the next few months is linked with the cancellation of export, import dn [as received] tax privileges.

However, the increased spending on defense and law-enforcement bodies reflects a new political background of the economic reforms. The measures to settle the Chechen conflict are financed from the budget within the limit of the planned figures.

Tax Changes Seen as Increasing Food Prices

MM0105115295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Irina Savvateyeva: "Tax Innovations Approved By President"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The other day Boris Yeltsin signed some laws that enshrine certain changes in the procedure for levying profit tax, value-added tax, and tax on enterprises' property.

The value-added and profit tax innovations are closely associated with the adoption of the budget for this year. The gist of them is as follows: Concessions for housing construction are abolished (the budget is expected to gain around six trillion rubles [R]; value-added tax is introduced on imported food (extra budget revenue of R1-2 trillion); value-added tax on food commodities is increased from 10 to 20 percent (another R1.2 trillion for the budget). But this increase will not affect a number of essential items—bread, meat, milk, groats.... The government is currently preparing a detailed list of these commodities.

Certainly the increase in the rate of tax on food and, in particular, the introduction of value-added tax on imported products will lead to price rises. Mikhail Motorin, chief of a sector of the Duma Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finance Committee, believes that prices will rise by 10-20 percent.

But the changes also contain some good things for the taxpayer: The procedure for calculating value-added tax is simplified. According to Mikhail Motorin, this will lead to a reduction in producers' losses. Particularly in the case of producers with a lengthy production cycle and considerable stocks of materials.

As for the profit tax innovations, the main thing is that the top rate for the tax has been lowered by three percent and is now fixed at 35 percent. Another novelty is that head enterprises with branches in other regions will transfer part of the profit tax to these regions and not keep all of it at their own place of "residence," as has been the case hitherto.

Furthermore, the signed law abolishes the tax on exceeding actual expenditure on pay compared with the normative figure as of 1 January 1996.

Finally, the tax on enterprises' property. Nothing fundamentally new is envisaged here. The law signed by the president in fact only enshrines certain provisions of past presidential edicts. The top rate of tax is set at two percent of the taxable base, and particular concessions for individual types of enterprises are abolished or introduced.

All the aforementioned changes come into effect the day the laws are officially published. But the law envisaging changes in the tax on profits, once it has come into effect, will actually be retroactive—effective 1 January 1995.

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International Affairs

U.S. Ambassador on Clinton Visit Agenda

LD2904171695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington [no date as received]—About 30 percent of the issues to be discussed at a meeting between the U.S. President Bill Clinton and Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma during the course of Bill Clinton's visit to Ukraine will deal with general political matters and 70 percent with economy. These will be issues pertaining to the situation in Ukraine and around the country, Ukraine's national security, and its place in Europe. The main attention will be paid to issues of economic and trade cooperation. Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States said this in an interview with a UNIAN correspondent.

According to Shcherbak, a list of actions in support of reforms in Ukraine will be announced. One of the actions envisages the granting of a "stand-by" loan of $1.5 billion to Ukraine by the International Monetary Fund.

Shcherbak also made an assumption that Russian-Ukrainian relations would be discussed at the meeting.

Udovenko on Kuchma-Clinton Talks

LD2904213795 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1820 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma has been invited to take part in the festivities on the occasion of the V-E Day in London, Paris, Moscow, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told a news conference.

The leadership of Ukraine attributes great political significance to these invitations as the evidence of recognition of Ukraine's great role in the rout of Hitler's fascism. However, Leonid Kuchma is very much busy tackling domestic issues of the state life and will therefore be able to attend only a festive ceremony which is to take place in Moscow in the afternoon [of 9 May]. Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko will represent Ukraine in London and Paris (6-7 May), Acting Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk in Bratislava, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Oleh Dyomin in Prague (after the issue is coordinated with the Supreme Council chairman). [passage omitted]

The foreign minister also answered journalists' questions concerning international policy issues. In particular, it is expected that a joint Declaration on the further development of relations between Ukraine and the United States will be signed during an official visit by the U.S. President to Kiev (provisionally on 11-12 May), the foreign minister said. Besides, the presidents of Ukraine and the United States will definitely focus on the present-day state of Ukrainian-U.S. agreements on the implementation of the obligations assumed by the American side as regards rendering financial assistance on a bilateral basis (especially obligations connected with nuclear disarmament), as regards phasing out the Chernobyl nuclear power station and ensuing problems which Ukraine cannot solve independently, as regards both states' attitudes to NATO's expansion, etc. A Ukrainian delegation will leave for Washington on 30 April. Secretary of the National Security Council of Ukraine Volodymyr Horbulin and Deputy Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko will be in the delegation. The aim of the trip is to make preparations for Bill Clinton's visit to Kiev and outline specific events within the program of the visit. A legal adviser of the U.S. Department of State is expected to arrive in Kiev on 3-4 May to draft the agreements that are planned to be signed.

Udovenko on Accommodating Clinton

LD2904170295 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine has run into serious trouble on the eve of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the republic. He is to arrive in Kiev on 11 May. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko admitted today that Kiev is not designed for such important political visits. Ukraine's capital does not have a single five-star hotel or a building suitable for such an eminent guest.

Clinton already visited Ukraine last year but then he spent only several hours at Borispol airport.

Kuchma on Relations With Russia, Europe

LD3004125095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Aleksey Bukalov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ROME April 30 (Itar-Tass)—"Both Ukraine and Russia are in need of retaining their friendly and neighbourly ties. We are too much related to afford the luxury of undermining our ties," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said in an interview published by Milan's newspaper "Sole-24 Ore".

"If the leaders of the two countries have political will for a search of mutually acceptable solutions which would not hurt the partner's interests, patience and common sense will help us reach a consensus," Kuchma continued.

"As a European state Ukraine naturally is seeking a full part in pancontinental processes and in the setting up of an effective security system," the president said.

Kuchma said Ukraine counted on admission to the Council of Europe already this year. Ukraine is also developing the cooperation with the European Union and NATO. Kuchma said contacts with NATO within the frame of the Partnership for Peace programme are important to Ukraine.

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The Ukrainian president stressed Ukraine's commitment to the principles of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Helsinki process.

Ukraine will comply with the agreements which envision "territorial integrity and stability of existing borders in Europe as a basis for inter-state relations and a guarantee of peace and stability in the region".

The presidential interview was published on the eve of Kuchma's first official visit to the Appenines due on May 2-5.

Council Speaker Moroz on Visit to Germany

LD3004175595 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The shortage of information about Ukraine, about our political situation, and our economic intentions has been considerably reduced. This view was expressed by Oleksandr Moroz, speaker of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, commenting on the results of his official visit to Germany. Another important step toward understanding and confirming business-like and partnership relations has been taken. A chronology of the main events of the visit follows:

On the first day of his visit, Moroz and members of the delegation were present at a plenary meeting of the Bundestag where they were greeted by Rita Suessmuth, president of the higher legislative body. Later, she received the Ukrainian delegation. Moroz drew Suessmuth's attention to the fact that Ukraine, which lost more than five million compatriots during World War II, had not been officially invited to the celebration that will be held in Germany on 8 May. Nobody has a monopoly on the use of the date and the 50th anniversary of Victory Day, Oleksandr Moroz said at one of the meetings. The Ukrainian delegation was in Berlin's Treptow Park and laid a wreath at the memorial complex dedicated to the liberating soldiers. As regards the official meetings and talks, there were more than 25 of them. [passage omitted]

Draft Treaty on Demarcation of Belarus Border Signed

LD2804182895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft treaty on the delimitation and demarcation of the Ukrainian-Belarusian frontier was signed near Kiev on 28 April. A news conference has been held on the outcome of the work done by the two countries' joint commission at its regular sitting. It was pointed out at the news conference that the legal registration of the frontier between Belarus and Ukraine had been done in two stages: The first one was the delimitation, i.e. outlining the frontier on working maps—the line crosses lands, lakes, and rivers and extends to 952 km. On completion of this stage a demarcation of the frontier will get under way, i.e. the process of establishing the frontier on the terrain.

The draft treaty will be submitted for the consideration of the Parliaments of Ukraine and Belarus to be subsequently signed at the summit level.

Civil Defense Subunits To Participate in PFP Program

LD2904172095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chiefs of general staff of NATO partner countries and countries of Central and Eastern Europe are continuing their visit to Brussels. Some countries submitted a document entitled "Planning and Estimating Forces to be Used in Civil Actions for the consideration of NATO." The document deals with the Partnership for Peace [PFP] program.

Together with some other countries, Ukraine tabled a similar document to NATO, and from now on Ukraine's special subunits of civil defense will take part in the elimination of consequences of natural calamities in Europe. Under the document Ukraine allocates 10 cargo aircraft IL-76 .

Lawmaker Warns of NPT Ratification Revision

LD2804162295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV April 28 (Itar-Tass)—A Ukrainian lawmaker warned on Friday [28 April] that the national parliament pay revise its decision to ratify the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT] in connection with the crisis in the "Crimean issue".

Yuriy Karmazin, chairman of the ad hoc parliamentary commission on the political and legal situation in Crimea, told Tass Friday [28 April] that the issue of revising the ratification had been "already considered" and recalled that Ukraine had joined the nuclear non-proliferation treaty with a number of clauses.

Crimea's Meshkov To Appeal to OSCE

LD0105060095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2147 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 29 (Interfax)—Yuriy Meshkov, dismissed by Ukraine as the Crimean president, is now in his office working on an appeal to the OSCE, a source close to Meshkov told Interfax on April 29 at night.

According to the same source, Meshkov will say in the appeal that "the rights of Russian-speakers and all Crimean residents are violated in Crimea."

The Ukrainian parliament abolished the Crimean presidency on March 17.

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National Affairs

Moroz: Black Sea Fleet Problem To Be Settled Soon

LD2804153895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOGNE, April 28 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The problem of the Black Sea Fleet will be resolved shortly "on the state level," Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, told Ukrainian journalists in Cologne Thursday [27 April]. He is at the head of a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation visiting in Germany.

He regards turning Sevastopol into a Russian naval base as inadmissible.

Moroz believes that the Black Sea Fleet has to have an area for berthing the ships and stationing support services. This area has to be rented, he emphasized.

The Russian negotiators have insisted, however, that the fleet needs the entire infrastructure of Sevastopol for its main base.

U.S. Financier Praises Progress of Reforms

LD2804183195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 28 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The world should understand that its aid to Ukraine is inadequate to the problems faced by the republic, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told renowned U.S. financier George Soros in Kiev Friday [28 February].

Ukrainian Presidential Press Secretary Mikhail Doroshenko told Interfax-Ukraine that Soros had highly praised progress of reforms in Ukraine and expressed readiness to promote them in future. "At present, Ukraine has achieved progress in what I am always ready to help it," he said.

"Ukraine can influence international-scale processes, that is why is must be supported in all ways possible," he told Kuchma.

For his part, Kuchma thanked Soros for his fund's assistance to the economic reforms in Ukraine.

Preparations For Crimean Referendum Suspended

LD2804145595 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Preparations for the Crimean referendum have been suspended. The Central Electoral Commission in Simferopol, which has been instructed to organize it, points to the protest issued by the General Procuracy of the Ukraine, which declared that the referendum would be illegal.

[Begin Central Electoral Commission Chairman V. Alsufyev recording] The Crimean Supreme Soviet will have to examine this protest within 10 days and make an appropriate decision. The Central Electoral Commission will not take any measures before a decision has been made with regard to the protest. [end recording]

However, the commission for the elimination of the presidential structures has been decisively carrying out its duties. It has sealed the premises where Yuriy Meshkov's colleagues used to work and is presently confiscating office passes.

For his part, Yuriy Meshkov does not leave his office either during the day or at night. A rally was held today in Simferopol in his support, but on the whole the situation in the town is calm. By the way, there are more people on the streets: tourists have began arriving in Crimea.

Council Committee Finishes Crimean Autonomy Resolutions

LD2804163295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 28 (Interfax-Ukraine)—An ad hoc Ukrainian parliament committee on Thursday [27 April] finished drafting two parliament resolutions to limit the autonomy of Crimea, the committee chairman said on Friday [28 April].

One of the resolutions would dissolve the present Crimean parliament and order a new parliamentary election on Ukraine's autonomous peninsula, the other would not disband today's Crimean legislature but would restrict its powers, Yuriy Karmazin told Interfax-Ukraine.

Citing a "telephone call from (the Crimean administrative center) Simferopol," he said 52 of the 98 members of the present Crimean parliament were willing to accept the reform.

"I can't see any constitutional obstacles to the passage of the resolution to reorganize the Crimean parliament if the desire of the majority of deputies to work within the Ukrainian legal framework is confirmed," Karmazin said.

Going over to other proposals to resolve the Crimean crisis, Karmazin said the Derzhavnist (Statehood) and Rukh (Movement) groups in the Ukrainian parliament wanted the peninsula's autonomy to be abolished altogether.

"It's necessary to consider the whole spectrum of proposals, although it's difficult for me to say now which of them will be officially put before the (parliament) session," he said.

He suggested that the Ukrainian legislators deal with the Crimea issue simultaneously with considering at the second reading amendments on Crimea to the Ukrainian Constitution.

The Ukrainian parliament on March 17 passed at the first reading a law which restricts Crimea's autonomy.

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Simferopol Rally Demands Referendum

LD2804182595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—The Ukrainian Interior Ministry's main interior department in the Crimea has called on Crimean residents to abstain from unauthorized rallies and do not break order during the holidays. It promised in exchange to "create conditions for their normal rest".

"The recent public disorders have complicated the work of the police. They are hampering anti-crime measures," says an appeal of the department circulated here today.

An unauthorized rally was held today on a Simferopol central square by the Russian Society of the Crimea. The rally demanded to cancel the 1954 act on transfer of the Crimea to Ukraine and resolution of the Ukrainian parliament that abolished the Crimean constitution and presidency. They also urged the creation of a union of Slav states on territory of the Commonwealth and demanded a Crimean referendum.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's temporary commission for studying the political-legal situation in the Crimea Yuriy Karmazin said here today that the issue of the Crimean referendum has not been prepared and it will be discussed in the second half of May. In the words of Karmazin, the Ukrainian parliament will have an extraordinary meeting if the Crimean situation continue to aggravate.

He confirmed that the commission has prepared two drafts resolution on the Crimea. The first one provides for dissolution of the parliament, and the other enables the formation of a Crimean parliament with deputies that abide by Ukrainian laws. There is the third variant suggested by several deputy groups and factions. This draft provides for abolition of the Crimean autonomy. In the opinion of Karmazin, this draft will not be accepted. "The majority of deputies think that the autonomy has not exhausted itself," he added.

Situation Growing Tense in Crimea

LD2904084395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0808 GMT 29 Apr 95

["Situation growing tense in Crimea"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Calls are increasingly louder in the Crimea for reversal of the Ukrainian parliament's resolutions which scrapped the Crimean constitution and presidency.

On Friday [28 April], The Russian Society of the Crimea held a rally in a central square of Simferopol.

The rally demanded return of the constitution and presidency, cancellation of the 1954 act which passed the Crimea to Ukraine as a gift, and the setting up of a union of Slav states in the CIS. The rally chanted "Referendum! Referendum!"

The Ukrainian Interior Directorate in the Crimea called on the population to refrain from unpermitted gatherings in the festive days ahead, and promised to "ensure conditions for normal rest of people in the festive days".

Sources in Kiev told Itar-Tass that chairman of the Ukrainian parliamentary commission on the political and legal situation in the Crimea, Yuriy Karmazin, said on Friday that the Crimean referendum issue had not received adequate parliamentary scrutiny.

The Ukrainian parliament is due to address the issue later in May. Karmazin added that the parliament would meet for an extraordinary session if the situation in the Crimea deteriorated.

Crimean parliament chairman Sergey Tsekov in an interview with Itar-Tass denied media reports that he had restricted access to his building for the staff of Yuriy Meshkov, whose presidential post was abolished on March 17.

"My position remains unaltered. The Crimean president has been elected by the people, and only the people has the right to recall him," Tsekov stressed.

Over the last month and a half Meshkov has been remaining in his office round the clock. A commission for liquidation of the presidential service, which had been set up by the Crimean government on orders from the Ukrainian cabinet, has no right to give orders in the Crimean parliamentary building, Tsekov said.

Karmazin told Itar-Tass on Friday that the Ukrainian parliament might reconsider its decision to ratify the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which had been endorsed by Ukraine with reservations. He added that the parliament was already "working" on this subject.

May Day Parade Ban Criticized

LD0105082595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0337 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 30 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz has criticized the Ukrainian authorities' decision to ban the May-Day demonstration in Kreshchatik, Kiev's central street.

"The Kiev authorities have opted for a doubtful way out of the situation," he told Interfax-Ukraine in the Borispol airport upon his return from Germany.

Moroz, the leader of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, said that he was planning to take part in the May-Day demonstration.

Earlier, the Kiev authorities had banned the event on the grounds that road-repair work was to be done in Kreshchatik before the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the [World War II] Victory.

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Simferopol May Day Rally To Seek Kuchma Resignation

LD0105094595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0901 GMT 1 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 1 May—It has been a long time since a demonstration like that held by the trade unions and Communist Party of the Crimea today has been seen in Simferopol. According to information from its organizers, about 10,000 people took to the streets.

The columns of demonstrators converged on the central square where a rally was held. The demonstrators adopted a resolution condemning, as the document puts it, "the anti-people policy of the Ukrainian president that has led the country's economy to disaster." It was announced at the rally that signatures were to be collected for a resolution demanding the resignation of Leonid Kuchma as "a president who has deceived his people." The demonstrators also demanded the resignation of the Crimean government led by Anatoliy Franchuk.

In his speech to the rally, Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov called on Crimeans to show their support for their constitution, which was abolished by the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Former Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov addressed the rally beside the Crimean parliament building. According to Meshkov, the whole of eastern Ukraine supported the Crimeans' fight for their rights. He stressed that Crimea would not abandon the demands it was making to the Kiev authorities.

Deputies Asked To Adhere To Constitution

954F2164A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 1

["Declaration of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Concerning the Appeal of a Significant Portion of Deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The activity of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the nature of the actions of its leadership, following adoption of the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions of 17 and 24 March 1995 concerning measures to set straight legislation regulating the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and decisions of the Ukrainian president in this regard, testify to the absence of constructiveness and consistency in these efforts. On the contrary, a portion of the leadership of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has continued to wage a propagandistic campaign against the organs of state power of Ukraine aimed at destabilizing the situation on the peninsula. Evidence of such actions can be seen in the speech of the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine notes the striving of a significant portion of deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to dissociate themselves from such actions and to organize fruitful efforts directed towards resolving existing problems in the autonomy, and it supports their intentions aimed at ensuring legality in the activity of the representational, legislative organ of the autonomy and at drawing up the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine asks all deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to personally determine their position without delay with respect to recognition of and compliance in their activities with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolutions of 17 and 24 March 1995.

City of Kiev

20 April 1995

Crimean Council Appeals to Kuchma, RF Duma

954F2164B Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by T. Ryabchikova: "'Ukraine Has Two Choices: Democracy or Dictatorship'—Session of the Crimean Supreme Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Analyzing the resolutions of Ukraine's highest organs of state power that were adopted on 17 and 31 March 1995, with consideration given to their legal expert review, deputies have essentially espoused two versions of a decree during the process of discussion of the issue "The Political-Legal Situation in the Crimean Republic": to consider the legislative acts of Ukraine as not legally binding in the Crimean Republic; to propose to the Ukrainian Supreme Council that the political-legal conflict be resolved through negotiations; to have local organs of authority be guided not by Ukrainian, but by Crimean legislation (the draft decree drawn up by V.S. Rudakov). A different approach for resolving the situation was proposed by Deputy B.V. Kizilov: to form the Constitutional Commission for Development of a New Crimean Republic Constitution; to present the main provisions of the Constitution for universal popular discussion; to submit initiatives to the Ukrainian Supreme Council extending the period of time allocated to working on the Crimean Republic Constitution, and designating the Ukrainian Supreme Council as guarantor in the conduct of universal popular discussion of the main provisions of the Crimean Republic Constitution.

I find preferable the draft decree drawn up by Deputy V.S. Rudakov, the preamble of which provides a precise

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legal assessment and cites specific incidences of violations by the state authorities of Ukraine of the principles and norms of international law and of their own obligations before the world community. On the other hand, Russia has also assumed obligations with respect to protecting the interests and legal rights of Russians residing outside Russia's borders. It is a fact that Russia cannot be indifferent to the fate of Russian-speaking Crimea. And so I have proposed that these two provisions be inserted in the decree portion of the document. I thank the deputies for having supported me here.

The decree adopted Thursday evening reads as follows:

"1. To appeal to the Ukrainian Supreme Council and to the president of Ukraine, proposing that the resolutions adopted 17 and 31 March 1995 be reviewed and brought into conformance with Ukraine's international obligations and with the principles and norms of international law.

"2. To ask the State Duma and the president of the Russian Federation to adopt measures, in accordance with their international obligations, with respect to protecting the rights of Russians residing in the Crimean Republic, people who comprise an ethnic minority in the state of Ukraine."

I will dare to conjecture that Ukraine does not expect such an approach by the Crimean parliament. They expect from us either complete submission, or yet one more ultimatum, which would only serve to incite the militant segment of Ukrainian deputies thirsting for final disposition of the Crimean Republic. But we have pointed out to the Ukrainian state, which declares itself a law-governed and democratic power, that it is not operating according to those methods which have been adopted throughout the civilized world. So let them now decide which path they want to take—towards democracy or dictatorship, and let them think of how the world community will evaluate this.

The next session of the Crimean Supreme Council is scheduled for Tuesday, 25 April. It is proposed to lift the moratorium on the all-Crimean referendum and adopt a decree on the mechanism for implementing the will of the Crimean people.

President Insists on New Military Doctrine

LD2804195295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma insisted on Thursday [27 April] that Ukraine adopt a new military doctrine as soon as possible.

"According to the former doctrine, we had to dig trenches along our borders and defend ourselves," he told reporters during a visit to an army base near Pereyaslav-Khmelnitskiy in the Kiev Region, where he watched range practice. "I can't accept that doctrine," he added.

"After a new doctrine is adopted, the Ukrainian armed forces should be organized on the basis of it. We'll be following those processes and won't leave our army to deal with its problems on its own," Kuchma said.

The president was accompanied at the base by senior Defense Ministry officials and foreign military attaches.

'Firekiller' Aircraft Receives International Acclaim

AU2804145595 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lyudmyla Menzhulina: "The Sign of Recognition for Yet Another 'An'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The aircraft registry of the International Aviation Committee has issued a special-category certificate of flight suitability for the An-32P aircraft, known in the world as "Firekiller."

It is the fourth "Antonov" machine that has been given such an honor. Incidentally, not a single aviation firm in the former Soviet Union ever came near such a record. In addition to the "Firekiller," as pilots and designers and now also journalists call it, the An-28, An-124-100, and An-74 received such recognition by the International Aviation Committee.

What does this mean? Simply that this type of aircraft is very reliable in operation, and if somebody decides to bet on it, he should have no doubts about its quality. There is no need to conduct additional tests when purchasing or renting it.

The An-32P, for example, proved this last summer in Portugal, as it successfully extinguished fires throughout the country, having thereby justified its reputation as the most powerful "firekiller."

In their message to Petro Balabuyev, chief designer of the Antonov Design Office, the Portuguese assessed the aircraft highly. The crash of one of the three machines and the death of our crew [on 10 February 1995) did not result from any technical causes. That is why, sharing with us the pain of the loss, the Portuguese Government found it possible to extend the contract for another four years.

After the results of the flights at airshows in the Philippines and Australia in March 1995 became known, more orders for renting or purchasing the An-32P were received. Therefore, such aircraft must be built. The Kiev state aviation factory is ready for the task....

Indeed, so far, our "Firekiller" is unique. It sprays fire-extinguishing liquid at a flight speed of up to 260 km per hour at a minimum altitude of 40 meters.

Salvo (8 metric tons at a time) or successive (4 tons at a time) discharges of liquid are envisaged. The An-32P is capable of extinguishing fires, transporting firefighters

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and their parachutes, and special equipment; they can also actively affect clouds and cause precipitation in the fire zone. It only takes the dispenser aggregates four minutes to fill up and their capacity is between 1.5 and 2 tons greater than that of foreign-made "firekillers." If necessary, the An-32P can be easily re-equipped to carry as much cargo as needed, because it was created on the basis of the standard An-32 cargo plane.

It is a pity that foreigners are showing more interest in this technology, even though they have enough of their own. They opt for the best. We, as always, remain with the leftovers, offering what is best for sale to keep ourselves going somehow.

It would be good if not just memories remained in our country's aircraft depot.

Tough Measures Taken To Solve Gas Debt Problem

LD2804164595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 28 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The Ukrainian Cabinet has declared the intention to take urgent measures to resolve the problem of paying the debt for imported gas.

The Cabinet met in session on Friday [28 April] to approve of an appeal to all gas consumers and a message to all ministries, agencies and executive bodies.

The government said that the Ukrainian debt for gas imported from Turkmenistan and Russia was snowballing and would exceed $1 billion by the end of the summer. The $1.5-billion-dollar-debt for gas consumed in the previous years remains unpaid.

In this situation the government has to import 17.5 billion cubic meters of gas to pump into underground storages.

Gas supplies to debtor-enterprises are going to be slashed or stopped altogether. Ministries and agencies are instructed to present list of debtors to the government. The Ukrgaz company was recommended to take the necessary measures to declare bankrupt those enterprises who systematically fail to pay debts.

Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk has said that in the context of the crisis of non-payments for gas the accounts of enterprises total 37 trillion karbovantsy and 283 million dollars. At the same time about 95 percent of enterprises do not pay for gas and the internal debt of gas consumers exceeds 135 trillion karbovantsy.

In 1994 gas consumption in Ukraine totalled 94.4 billion cubic meters. Only 20 percent of gas consumed in Ukraine is produced domestically.

Gas Supply To Be Cut Off From 10 May

LD2804164195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Under the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine the gas supply to the population, first and foremost in the countryside, will be cut off as of 10 May for the entire summer period. This is said in a government cable sent by the Cabinet of Ministers to the executive committees of regional councils, to the Kiev and Sevastopol city councils, to the Crimean Government, to the ministries and departments.

The government says that in the near future it will be forced to cut off the gas supply to all enterprises-debtors without exception.

In an appeal to the Supreme Council of Ukraine the Cabinet of Ministers proposes that the plenary powers of the chairmen of councils of people's deputies who will hamper gas supply limitations and the stoppage of gas supply to enterprises-debtors be cancelled ahead of time.

The government demands that the leaders of regions should terminate contracts with the enterprises that sabotage the settlement of accounts for natural gas.

According to data available to the government, the gas debt to Russia's enterprises has reached $500 million. Under this situation the debt may exceed $1 billion by the end of the summer.

Hot Water Supply To Be Cut Off

LD2804182095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Commenting on today's statement by the government' at the session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said: "In July at the latest, Russia will cut off the gas supply to Ukraine due to recurrent nonpayments. It will be preferable to take 'surgical' measures rather than find ourselves in a dead-end street. It is not a question of gas, but a question of the state's independence. We have reached the point when the threat [to Ukraine's independence] has become a harsh reality."

Yevhen Marchuk said ministries have already made up the lists of enterprises that will be disconnected from gas supply.

"As regards limitations on the consumption of energy sources by the population, at first the hot water supply will be cut off and then the cold water supply will be rationed, like in Armenia, down to one hour per day," Marchuk said.

Gas, Timber, Chemical Firms Cut

LD2804204395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1840 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Gas supplies to 30 out of the 120 enterprises of the chemical industry, and to 40 enterprises of the timber processing industry will be cut off due to nonpayments for gas, Ukraine's Minister of Industry Anatoliy Holubchenko told a briefing today.

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In an interview with UNIAN, he said that the overall sum of the gas debt owed by enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Ukraine amounted to $76.6 million as at 12 April 1995 (Ukraine's overall debt to Russia for the gas consumed stands at $500 million). Of this sum metallurgical enterprises owe $22 million, chemical enterprises $54 million, and enterprises of the timber processing industry 145.8 billion karbovantsi.

According to Holubchenko, the overall volume of gas consumption by the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry of Ukraine in 1994 amounted to 18-20 billion cubic meters of gas (out of the 90b billion cu.m. consumed by the country as a whole).

The minister of industry of Ukraine also said that during the May Day holidays he will hold talks via intercom with the directors of enterprises to coordinate the final sum of the debt owed by the enterprises whose operation is to be suspended.

Holubchenko said he will spare no effort to make it possible for the industry to continue its operation.

Black Sea Fleet Without Electricity, Water

LD3004185595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 30 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The garrisons and military units of the Black Sea fleet stationed near the Donuzlav salt lake in Crimea have been left without light and water. The sailors are unable to wash or watch TV. The reason for these drastic measures is prosaic: a large debt for electricity and water has not been paid.

"This is not the first instance of such unceremonious behavior," Vice Admiral Gennadiy Suchkov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea fleet, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "They do whatever they like. They can switch off communications to the command post, or switch off all the telephones at the main base. Yes, we do not have enough money. We do not even pay the officers back wages. But why does this happen? It is because 40 percent of the fleet's budget go to pay 15 types of taxes to Ukraine, and first of all for the land on which the fleet's bases are situated. Ukraine actually pays its debts to Russia with this money. The Black Sea command thinks that it is unnecessary to transfer this money to the fleet, so it could then transfer it to Ukraine, and the latter, in turn, to Russia. Wouldn't it be simpler to automatically write off this money from Ukraine's debt? Then the fleet would not have these financial difficulties."

Deputy Premier on Decision To Reduce Gas

LD2904200995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The government was forced to agree to a significant reduction in gas consumption, so that 17 billion cubic meters of gas could be pumped into underground reservoirs during the next three or four months and then used uninterruptedly next winter, Anatoliy Dyuba, deputy prime minister for fuel and energy complex, told UNIAN on 29 April.

On 28 April the Cabinet of Ministers approved an appeal to gas consumers and will send a government telegram to the regions on 4 May. The documents say it is necessary to establish strict control over gas consumption and unconditionally cut off gas supplies to indebted enterprises. As "an extreme and temporary measure," as Dyuba put it, "gas supplies to the population will be cut off for the entire summer period, which will affect, first and foremost, gas consumers in the countryside."

The deputy prime minister said he counted on the Supreme Council's understanding of the government's actions. "It is necessary to reduce gas consumption and obtain payments for gas by all means," he said.

Over 1,000 enterprises that persistently fail to pay for gas will soon be stopped, Anatoliy Dyuba said. A final list of these enterprises will be approved after 3 May. Gas cutoffs will not be applied to such priority industries as chemical and metallurgical (partially).

One of the proposals aimed at improving payments for gas envisions to restore a system of compulsory payments.

Anatoliy Dyuba said alternative kinds of fuel, such as peat, coal, brick fuel, and firewood would have to be used more extensively. According to information available to Anatoliy Dyuba, the government envisioned the possibility of selling additional quantities of coal to the population. In his opinion, the use of these resources would make it possible to ease the situation.

Due to a strict regime of economizing gas, there will be limitations on hot water supplies. It will be supplied for two hours two or three times a day at a convenient time for the population.

Anatoliy Dyuba expressed the hope that the Supreme Council would agree to the corrections to the state budget, which would allow enterprises to pay out their gas debts in the first instance.

The deputy prime minister of Ukraine also spoke in favor of taking similar emergency measures in the sphere of electricity consumption. He said one should be ready for the population to use electric cookers instead of gas cookers. Experience in the field of registering electric power consumption will allow the state to keep the situation in this sector under control.

It is not ruled out that enterprises will switch over to a new schedule and will therefore begin work at 0800 [0500 GMT] so that they can use as much daylight as possible, and that electricity will be redistributed to ensure plants' operation during night shifts.

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According to Anatoliy Dyuba, limits of gas consumption in the regions will be essentially revised. The deputy prime minister rejects any possibility of cutting off gas in populated areas at certain hours, explaining this by safety reasons.

"After calculations are made, a schedule of temporary gas cutoffs in populated areas in turns, for a period of one month for example, will probably be drawn up," he said. Anatoliy Dyuba expressed the hope that "people will understand the emergency measures taken by the executive power bodies."

Economic Issues

EBRD Grants Loan for Oil, Gas Sector Development

WS0105085695 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0724 GMT 1 May 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information provided to INFOBANK by the EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] office in Kiev, one of Ukraine's most promising oil and gas fields will shortly be under production following the signing of a loan agreement between a Ukrainian joint venture production company, Poltava Petroleum Company (PPC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The loan, for 8 million USD, is the first EBRD investment in the Ukrainian energy sector.

Ron Freeman, first vice president of the EBRD who was in Kiev for the signing, said "By assisting the country to develop its indigenous resources the EBRD can do two things: show that it is possible to create joint ventures in this sector and secondly reduce Ukraine's imports of oil and gas, thereby using its hard currency earnings in other areas of its economy."

PPC, 51 percent owned by the Ukrainian State Property Fund and Poltava Gasprom and 49 percent by JKX Exploration and Production Ltd (JKX), an independent British oil and gas company, will undertake production of the Ignatovskoye oil and gas fields in the Novo-Nikolaevskoye complex south of the city of Poltava in central Ukraine. It is the first fully operational oil and gas joint venture in Ukraine and the EBRD financing is expected to spur development of similar projects elsewhere in the country.

The proceeds from the loan will be used to finance the drilling of four new wells to increase production of the field, connecting with the wells to the operation and production base and constructing a pipeline and drill export facilities. Daily production from the field is expected to reach 4,000 barrels of oil and 45 million cubic feet of natural gas in the first phase.

To date, the EBRD has invested ECU 161.7 million in Ukraine in six projects, with a total project cost of ECU 303 million.

Outflow of 'Large Amounts of Bank Capital' Abroad

WS0105085195 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0724 GMT 1 May 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a press conference on April 28, the President of the Association of Ukrainian Banks, Oleksandr Suhoniako, announced that 27 Ukrainian banks had capital of over US$1 million each. The leading banks remain the same and they are UKRAINA (US$77.5 million) and UKRSOTSBANK (US$48.8 million). Mr. Suhoniako announced that bank shares remained the most reliable on the securities market. At the same time he admitted that, due to a high level of inflation in the first three months of 1995, the banks could not grant the full potential credit to national enterprises at low rates. This explains why large amounts of bank capital outflowed abroad—in the first place to Russia and Belarus—to operate on favorable conditions.

Food Producers Demand Substantial Credit From National Bank

WS0105085295 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0724 GMT 1 May 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On April 28, a joint session of the Commission on the Issues of Agrarian and Land Reform to the President of Ukraine and the Agrarian Commission to the parliament of Ukraine approved an appeal to the parliament to raise before the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) the issue of appropriation of a credit reserve of one trillion KBV [karbovantsi] for spring planting. As it was announced at the session, the Board of Directors of the NBU approved a credit rate of 110 percent for agrarian producers. Other borrowers must borrow at a rate of 150 percent.

Cancellation Requested of Electricity Subsidies

WS0105085495 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0724 GMT 1 May 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ihor Kublak, the Press Service Manager in the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, informed an INFOBANK correspondent that the ministry insisted that on May 1, the government will introduce new rates for the consumption of electric power by the population. According to the Ministry of Statistics, the granting of subsidies to the population for consumption of electric power at a cost to enterprises will lead to the decline of production in Ukraine.

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In his report at the parliament session of April 28 Mr. Roman Shpek, the minister of the economy, stressed that, if the government had not changed the rates for the consumption of electric power by the population, it would have had to increase the rates for industrial consumers by an average of 2.3 times. Due to loopholes in the rate policy and non-payment by consumers in the first three months of 1995, the enterprises of the Ministry of Energy incurred losses of 10.3 trillion karbovantsi. Out of eight Ukrainian electric power companies whose profitability rate was 20 percent, six companies became unprofitable. Among those are such large enterprises like DONBASENERHO and DNIPROENERHO. Experts from the Ministry of Energy estimate that the new rates should be from 1.5 to 2 times higher than the current ones.

On April 27, the Coordinating Council to the Ministry of Energy appealed to the Government of Ukraine to cancel direct benefits for all groups of the population without exception, and to render assistance to low-income earning citizens in the form of designated subsidies. At present, 6 million subscribers, of 16.2 million, enjoy free consumption of electric power.

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Moldova

General Lebed Criticizes Army Reorganization

LD2904125995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1231 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in the breakaway Dniester region which proclaimed independence from Moldavia, said on Saturday that reorganisation of his army, planned by the Russian Defence Ministry, will weaken it, which is fraught with a new armed conflict in the Dniester area.

Lebed (who heavily criticised Defence Minister Pavel Grachev several times and even President Yeltsin) said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass that he "had not an easy talk yesterday" with commander of Russian land forces Nikolay Semenov. However, he "does not intend to take any decisions till he receives an official order from Moscow".

Earlier, representatives from the Defence Ministry reported that the reorganisation of the 14th army provides for a considerable cut of its headquarters. As for General Lebed, he was offered (according to these representatives) several posts.

"The command of the army is now working as a well-tuned mechanism due to painstaking work over the last years," Lebed said. "The reorganisation planned by the Defence Ministry is thoughtless, since it means a breakdown of this mechanism, which will inevitably weaken the army."

According to Lebed, some forces in the government of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic are already preparing to capture army depots. "Under the present circumstances, it is highly improbable that the Moldavian leadership will sit idle and, as far as I know, Chisinau is already preparing counter measures," the general continued.

"It is an easy guess that a new armed conflict is imminent." In this connection, the army commander also called attention to the fact that the talks on settling the conflict between Chisinau and Tiraspol (capital of the self-proclaimed republic) are marking time in the recent past. For instance, a planned meeting between the Moldavian and Dniester leaderships has been postponed for the third month running.

Dniester Women's Committee Protest 14th Army Restructuring

AU2904164995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 28/4/1995—Several hundreds of ladies, supporting the Women's Committee for Defence of Dniester, held a rally in front of the 14th Army headquarters building today. They protested against the Russian Defence Ministry's decision to re-structure the Army Command. For several hours, they were protesting loudly against possible dismissal of Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, and stated their intention to prevent his living Tiraspol with all possible means. They quitted the place only after repeated requests of senior officers who believe the problem cannot be solved in such a way. As INFOTAG came to know from reliable sources in the headquarters, it's only today that Aleksandr Lebed has received the April 19 order of the Defence Ministry to reform the Army Command. The document instructs, in particular, to cut more than two-fold the officer staff in the headquarters, which is currently 220 men.

According to the same sources, the commander has received the paper calmly, and said that if Moscow does not allow him to bring his own current re-arrangements in the Army to a logical end, then he will have to retire, though after his annual leave which is to begin in near weeks.

Background information: Aleksandr Lebed is known for his irreconcilable attitude to both the Russian Defence Ministry and the Dniester leadership. Simultaneously, he patronizes the innumerous Tiraspol opposition which includes the above Women's Committee. In case Lebed goes, the local opposition will loose his protection and may suffer repressions by the Tiraspol administration.

Dniester's Maracuta Opposes Renaming Official Language

AU2904165395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 28/4/1995—The chairman of the Dniester Parliament, Grigore Maracuta, believes that Snegur's legislative initiative aimed at re-naming Moldova's official language back into Romanian "may complicate the relationship between Tiraspol and Chisinau."

"Tiraspol has always been against Romanization of Moldovans and of the Moldovan language," he said to INFOTAG.

"We welcomed Chisinau's rejection of the policy of close integration with Romania, for we always stood up for consolidation of Moldova's independence. However, life shows that it is too early yet to speak about the death of those political forces who are fighting for the unification of the two states. And the initiative of Mircea Snegur, who is under their thumb, is a bright example," Maracuta stressed.

In his opinion, "the re-naming of the language may be followed by re-naming of the people and by unification of the two countries, which perspective is strongly opposed by Dniester."

"Everything indicates that our policy of strengthening the Dniester statehood is quite correct. Only our own

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independence may serve a guarantee for Dniester inhabitants that they will not become Romanian citizens one fine day," he said.

Maracuta, an ethnic Moldovan, has stated he does not agree with allegations that the Moldovan language is identical to Romanian, and that "Romanian" is the correct name of the language. "Those who say this should ask people's opinion first. I know that my people speak Moldovan, and they reject Romanian as such, though the two languages are very much alike," he said.

"This way or another, but the problem will be touched during the next Tiraspol-Chisinau summit. Our relationship is quite tense now, and the language dispute only complicates it. And nobody knows when this next meeting will be held," Grigore Maracuta pointed out.

Official: Election 'Violations' Due to 'Ignorance'

AU2804121695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 27/4/1995—Observers at the 16 April local elections revealed lots of various violations at polling stations, stated Igor Grosu, chairman of the Pro-Democratia Association. He said at today's press conference that the association had accredited at the Central Election Commission [CEC] over 100 its observers, who, together with U.S., Norwegian, and Romanian observers, were present at 191 polling stations in all Moldovan regions. The local observers had been trained with the assistance of the Moldovan Bureau of the U.S.-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

"Main violations were due to lack of knowledge of the legislation—both by voters and members of election commissions. These are: the incorrect preparation of polling stations, electoral propaganda on the election day, the issuing of ballot papers without demanding passports, voting instead of somebody else, refusals to accredit observers, etc," he said. "Such violations influenced to a certain extent the voting results, particularly if one takes into consideration that many ballot papers were spoiled or not filled in at all due to the voters' ignorance," Grosu stressed.

He failed to state any definite attitude regarding the legislative initiative of the Socialist Unity faction, which suggested to consider elections valid if they are attended by one-third of the registered electorate. "It is not normal to appoint local body leaders if there exists a democratic election procedure. But to introduce amendments into a law that is in the process of implementation is not a way out, either. Such an initiative should have been adopted at the moment of the law passing," he said.

The conclusions of the local observers have not yet been forwarded to the CEC. Meanwhile CEC Chairman Vasile Pascari stated last week that no major violations had been detected during the elections.

Municipal Elections Declared Invalid

AU0105112495 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, May 1 (AFP)—The results of municipal elections in 29 towns in Moldova out of a total of 37, were declared invalid Monday [1 May] because turnout was too low.

The towns where less than 50 percent of the electorate, the required minimum, turned out in Sunday's second round run-off, will be administred for the next four years by officials named directly by the president.

The invalidation means the ruling Democratic Agrarian party will control almost all towns despite the fact that overall the Communist and Socialist Unity party which supports closer ties with other former Soviet republics, won the most votes.

Four Candidates Run For Bashkan Post in Gagauzia

AU2904165595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 28/4/1995—This Friday [28 April] is the deadline for handing in applications by candidates to run for the Bashkan and Popular Assembly elections.

As INFOTAG was told by the Gagauz Central Election commission, the elections to the Popular Assembly will be contested by the Communist Party of Moldova, Agrarian Democratic Party, Gagauz People's Party, and Vatan Party. Representatives of the Socialist Party, who polled the maximum number of Gagauz votes during the last year's parliamentary elections, did not register their party lists. Instead, they decided to run as candidates of labour collectives. Candidacies to stand for the Bashkan post were advanced by the former-time First Secretary of the Comrat Areal Committee of the Communist Party George Tabunshik, the current president of the self-styled Gagauz Republic Stepan Topal and current chairman of the Gagauz Parliament Mikhail Kendigelean, who succeeded in raising the required minimum of 5,000 signatures in their favour.

Voters' signatures are currently being raised energetically by one more local celebrity—the chairman of the Ciadar-Lunga Areal Executive Committee Dumitru Croitor who joined the election race quite recently and is planning to submit all the necessary documents and signatures exactly by the deadline—this midnight, so he still has several hours at his disposal.

Other candidates, who began signature raising, gave up the idea at the initial phase of the marathon.

The candidates shall be officially registered only next week, after their documents have been checked. The

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most real candidate for the Gagauzia's top post is George Tabunshik, who managed to raise over eight thousand signatures in several days.

Tabunshik Favorite To Win Bashkan Elections in Gagauzia

AU2904165695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 28 Apr 95

["INFOTAG Commentary: All Gagauz Politicians Got a Chance To Struggle For the Post of Bashkan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 28/4/1995—By having adopted the Gagauz Status Law and organized the referendum to delineate the boundary of Gagauz Yeri administrative unit, the Moldovan leadership thus began the practical settling of the Gagauz problem which has been a sufficiently acute issue during the last five years and has been closely watched by international organizations. The latter gave a positive appraisal to the Moldovan approach to solving the dispute, believing that it may serve an example to follow in settling not only the Dniester problem but also similar minority-related conflicts in other countries.

It is quite evident, however, that the establishment of Gagauz Yeri does not yet signify the final solution of the Gagauz minority problem in southern Moldova. This republic has not yet elaborated a strict and efficient mechanism of implementation of Parliament-adopted documents, and it is very often that such documents are differently interpreted in the localities.

In this particular case, a primary-importance matter will be how the law will be interpreted in Gagauzia, and very much will depend on who will become the new leader of the new administrative-territorial unit.

This Friday [28 April] is the deadline for nominating candidates to the posts of Bashkan (Head), and they shall be registered by the Central Election Commission the next week. Most probably, there will be 4 candidates: The former-time first secretary of the Comrat Areal Committee of the Communist Party George Tabunshik, the current president of the self-styled Gagauz republic Stepan Topal and current chairman of the Gagauz Parliament Mikhail Kendigelean, and the Chairman of the Ciadar-Lunga Areal Executive Committee Dumitru Croitor. Local observers named also a dozen other names, but their chances are fairly weak.

And still, the biggest chances are with the former communist leader, because Gagauz voters still remember very well their recent problem-free and prosperous live and stability. In any case, local experts believe that Tabunshik has more chances to become Bashkan than Topal and Kendigelean, who are considered as "troublemakers" by most Gagauzes.

"They made their deed, now they must go. We want to live peacefully, like before—in peace and accord with everybody," many Gagauzes said to your correspondent on the referendum day.

After new structures are formed in Gagauzia, this territory may come to have a strong opposition between the current leaders of the self-styled Gagauz Republic and new politicians who stand up for integral Moldova and are against the ambitious moods of the Gagauz founder fathers.

Like a majority of population, the new politicians believe that Gagauzia is only necessary as a guarantor against possible unification with Romania, and not more than that. With such a background, they have much more chances to become Gagauz Yeri leaders and to remove the present-day radicals who are utterly dissatisfied with the results of the referendum and are seeking to become opponents to official Chisinau again.

For instance, president Stepan Topal stated at March 5 referendum that "the Moldovan local elections scheduled for April 16 cannot take place in Gagauzia." And the Gagauz Parliament backed him several days later by having adopted an official decision to hold no Moldovan elections on the Gagauz territory.

Thus the leaders of the unrecognized republic sought to let everybody understand that they are rulers even in the newly-set administrative-territorial unit and that Chisinau is no authority to them.

Thus they forced the Moldovan leadership to enter into new negotiations and to make new concessions, and, in exchange for the elections, to obtain for themselves a convenient procedure of Bashkan election and thus to get rid of undesirable rivals. It seemed that they did succeed in that. The interim regulations for the Bashkan election was slightly amended by the Moldovan Government, and the new provision stipulated that Bashkan candidates were supposed to permanently live in Gagauz for the last five years. The Gagauz leaders were really happy: This provision "killed" their most dangerous rival—George Tabunshik.

However, this clause contradicted not only to the Gagauz Status Law but also to the common sense. Gagauzia was juridically arranged only on this past March 5, and it would be ridiculous to consider the new administrative-territorial unit as a successor to the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic.

Besides this, opponents to the current Comrat rulers are saying that the Soviet-time nomenclature system used to select the most competent professionals in the localities and promoted them to various posts in Chisinau, with Gagauzes having been no exception. In their opinion, it is absolutely normal if one of them would return to Gagauzia and become the Bashkan.

Three days after the Moldovan local elections were held in all localities, including Gagauzia, the Moldovan Government introduced a correction into the above Interim Regulations and thus brought the document into line with the Gagauz Status Law.

According to reports from Comrat, this caused panic of both Stepan Topal and Mikhail Kendigelean who were

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busy raising signatures at the moment in support of their candidacies. Now, the once lonely couple will be joined by George Tabunshik whose candidacy has already been proposed by many labour collectives. One more thing is very important: Tabunshik is supported by the Moldovan Communist Party, which polled 16 out of 27 seats in the Comrat Areal Committee at April 16 elections.

All this indicates that not only stage set is going to be changed at the Gagauz political scene, but actors, too.

Tiraspol-Chisinau Relations May Deteriorate

LD2804162695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, April 28 (Interfax)—Parliamentary speaker of the self-declared Transdniestrian republic Grigoriy Marakutsa fears that the Moldovan President Mircea Snegur's initiative to amend the constitution and change the name of the official language from Moldovan to Romanian may bring about complications in the Chisinau-Tiraspol relationship. Marakutsa said in an interview that Tiraspol had always opposed the Romanization of the Moldovans and the Moldovan language.

"We welcomed Chisinau's denunciation of close integration with Romania and we always sought the consolidation Moldova's independence. However, apparently it is too early to write off those political forces in Chisinau which press for unification with Romania. President Snegur has yielded to pressure from such forces and his initiative is an example of this."

Lawmakers Skeptical About Snegur's Language Amendment

AU2804140495 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 27/4/1995—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur addressed to Parliament on Thursday, 27 April, and suggested to alter Article 13 of the Constitution. He presumes the official language should be renamed back into Romanian.

Snegur reminded that hot disputes around the language name have been going on for over a year. At adopting the current version of Article 13, the Parliament had addressed to the Moldovan Academy of Sciences with a request to present their opinion concerning the language name. On 9 September 1994 the presidium of the academy suggested to formulate the first paragraph in the article as follows: "The state (official) language of the Republic of Moldova is Romanian." Shortly after that numerous scientific symposia were held, whose participants supported the name "Romanian."

The president said that several years ago nobody voiced any doubts concerning the name. The Constitution Commission, which elaborated the draft of the main law, proposed to name it Romanian. However, the split of political forces and population caused by the slogan of unification with Romania, which Snegur blamed as "a political provocation," resulted in the polarization of positions. The appearance of political extremism was largely due to malicious insults at everything having any relation to the names of "a Moldovan" and "Moldovan." These are the roots of the natural indignation of Moldovans, which finally found its reflection in Article 13—"a resolute rebuff to the campaign to humiliate and discredit the Moldovans," he said.

Extensive consultations with scientists and teachers have persuaded the President that it is impossible to fully implement Article 13 without changing it. In particular, some 80,000 Moldovan education workers believe the language is Romanian, and it is impossible to shatter their conviction. With reference to scientific data, Snegur said the Republic of Moldova speaks a special Moldovan tongue—one of many dialects of the Romanian language. "Romanian is the correct name of the language of our history, literature, culture, and writing. This is well-known all over the world," Snegur said. He announced his draft law on amending Articles 13 and 118 of the Constitution, and handed in to the Parliament the Moldovan Constitutional Court's positive conclusion concerning the draft law.

Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi stated that, in accordance with the Constitution, any amendments to it may be introduced within not earlier than six months after an appropriate draft law is submitted to Parliament. The president's address to Parliament and his draft law shall be considered by the parliamentary commissions and factions. Parliament shall form a special commission of nine persons: five from the PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova], two from the Socialist Unity [US], one from the Bloc of Peasants and Intellectuals [BTI], and one from the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova [FPCDM]. The commission shall present its report to the Permanent Bureau of Parliament, and the bureau shall submit the draft to a plenary sitting. The law shall be considered valid if voted for by no less than two-thirds of the elected deputies.

It is premature yet to speak about any single attitude of the PDAM faction or the Agrarian Democratic Party in general to the president's initiative, said Parliament Deputy Speaker Nicolae Andronic. He said to INFOTAG he was satisfied about the procedure of amending the Constitution, which permits to introduce any corrections only after thorough consultations and analysis of all opinions. "It is a great pity that the language name, once a purely scientific issue, is a political problem now. So, let us hope that in six months Parliament will take a correct decision, which will reflect scientific truths and will not politicize the society," Andronic stressed.

Writer Arhip Ciubotaru (PDAM) of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture, Science, Education, and Media also stated with regret that "the language has been

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transformed from a means of communication into a political instrument." He expressed hope that "during the six months many things will be clarified and everything will stand in its proper place." "However, I cannot bet that in half a year Parliament will vote with two-thirds of votes in favor of Snegur's draft. Most probably, everything will be just the other way round, because the current proportion of political forces in the forum will not yield so many votes in support of the document. In such a case, the only way out will be an all-nation referendum. And though it is unnatural to ask people what language they speak, there seems to be no other reasonable alternative," said the writer.

The second largest parliamentary faction, the U.S., does not support Snegur's language initiative, INFOTAG was told by several representatives of the faction. They said the U.S. shall hold consultations as envisioned by legislative procedures, but it is obvious even now that "we will vote against any amendments of the kind." Victor Zlacevschi of the US faction has stated to journalists that "there are absolutely no grounds to amend the main law. During the nine months since its adoption, there have been no drastic changes in the Moldovan society that would necessitate such amendments."

Official: 'Economic Takeoff' Impossible Without IMF Loans

AU2804152295 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1921 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/4/1995—Michel Camdessus, International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive director, will visit Chisinau on 6-7 May. BASA learned from the government that the IMF executive director will meet President Mircea Snegur and other officials, as well as financial and bank officials. Moldova joined the IMF on 12 August 1992 with a share of 90 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR—$125 million.) On 17 December 1993 the IMF approved the first stand-by credit worth $72 million. The total sum of credits offered to Chisinau by the IMF between 1992-1994 represents $126.1 million. On 22 March 1995 the IMF Council approved a new 12-month stand-by arrangement for SDR 585 million, equal to $90 million. Vice Premier Ion Gutu stated yesterday at a conference that "without the financial support of the IMF and other international organizations the economic takeoff in the former Soviet states, especially in the small countries like Moldova, will be impossible."

Recently Privatized Companies on 'Brink of Bankruptcy'

AU2804152695 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1921 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 27/4/1995—Seven industrial companies already privatized by means of patrimonial vouchers are on the brink of bankruptcy, Privatization and State Property Administration Minister Ceslav Ciobanu told DELOVAYA GAZETA. Other 15 privatized enterprises face a very difficult financial situation. The state will obtain 30 million lei from state property privatization and will use it to support recently privatized units. Previously, Chisinau experts said that only bankrupt economic units were sold in auctions. Some analysts say that 15-20 percent of the enterprises proposed for sale are close to bankruptcy. Other 10-15 percent have huge debts they cannot refund.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Congratulates Yeltsin

LD3004173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 30 (Itar-Tass)—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev congratulated the Russian people and President Boris Yeltsin on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, describing it as a landmark in the history of Russia and Kazakhstan.

In his message to President Yeltsin on Sunday [30 April], Nazarbayev pointed out that the "significance of this heroism is non-transient. It stems from the unconquerable will, and outstanding gallantry and courage which helped our people, united by a common cause, withstand all the sufferings and hardships of the war. Withstand and win, bringing liberation to other nations on their shoulders. [sentence as received] The bright image of our soldier liberator has been for ever ingrained in the memory of grateful mankind."

"We are bowing our heads to the memory of dozens of millions of heroes, representatives of our republics, who sacrificed their lives for the victory and we pay tribute to the veterans who forged it on the frontlines and in the rear. We are particularly grateful to the Russian people who joined forces to resist the invaders and who suffered the biggest and irreplaceable losses in that merciless war.

"On the holy battlefields of World War II, spilt with the blood of heroes, the anti-Hitler Coalition nations forged a brotherhood of arms. Their joint efforts ensured the triumph of reason and humanism over the misanthropic essence of the brown plague of the 20th century. Only now, half a century on, history has allowed us to celebrate the anniversary together with our allies and learn our lesson. We have a unique opportunity to make the dreams of the victors—to build just, democratic and safe peace on the planet—come true. We should not miss this chance.

"Great Russia, which is one of the leading powers of the modern world, is destined to play a respective role in the construction of an integral world, and the development of integration in the world community and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In this connection, we support your initiatives and share the concerns and responsibility for the fate of the present and future generations which must be free of cataclysms and wars."

"Our main and common priority is an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This decision, which is being prepared in New York with the active participation of the delegations of Russia and Kazakhstan, will become an unprecedented large-scale action and will allow us to freeze the tendency towards the spread of the pernicious threat. It will give an additional impetus to the creation of a comprehensive global security system. The goals of peace and stability are pursued by all decisions adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and, particularly, the Almaty Memorandum on the Safeguarding of Peace and Stability in the CIS. That's why we fully approve of your moratorium on fighting in Chechnya.

"We sincerely welcome the dynamically developing bilateral warm and confidential relations between Kazakhstan and Russia. We see the evidence of that in the agreements on a wide range of issued reached in Moscow at the beginning of the year and security guarantees that we have received from the Russian Federation. For its part, Kazakhstan has been scrupulously fulfilling its partnership and international obligations. This is the only way. By following this way we will be able to strengthen peace and accord, further reforms in our countries, ensure stability on the entire Eurasian space and make a tangible contribution to global security.

"The story of the great and remarkable friendship between our peoples will not be confined to Soviet history. It is resistant to corrosion by time and political interests. It is based on a centuries-old good-neighbourly attachment, it has been forged through common sufferings and hardships and cemented by millions of the strongest threads of human lives of Russians and Kazakhs, people of Russia and Kazakhstan. It is our duty to the memory of our ancestors and future generations to strengthen this friendship and cooperation between our peoples on the sound basis of deep mutual understanding and mutual respect for the culture and traditions of each other, for the conscious historic choice made by the peoples of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, and our common commitment to reforms, fundamental values, democracy and freedom.

"Drawing a parallel between the glorious historic past and the current stage, it is possible to say that our states, having overcome the most painful stage of the crisis, have found themselves at the Kursk Bulge, figuratively speaking, seeking to reverse the situation. Like after the Battle of Kursk, what we have achieved in reforms is the beginning of the strategic 'offensive' by our peoples. We are sincerely interested in Russia's success for it is the success of Kazakhstan, too."

Nazarbayev Strips Parliamentarians of Life Immunity

MK2804111095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 5

[Report from Almaty by Beket Abubakirov under the "Kazakhstan" rubric: "Nazarbayev Lifts Parliamentarians' Life Immunity, Equates the People and Their Former Deputies in Terms of Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kazakhstani president has issued an edict whereby a Supreme Council deputy will

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lose his or her immunity upon ceasing to exercise his duties as parliamentarian. This document amends the Law on the Status of People's Deputies, which was passed back in the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic era; under the law, the republic's members of parliament and also tens of thousands of deputies at various levels of authority enjoyed legal and court privileges other citizens did not have. These privileges remained in force even after a deputy became a "former" deputy.

Meanwhile, a mounting wave of crime that has swept various sectors of the population has not left "people's deputies" untouched either. However unfortunate this might be, members of the deputy corps commit the most diverse wrongdoings ranging from major embezzlement to misuse of office. According to Nikolay Belorukov, chief of the presidential staff's legality, law and order, and judicial reform department, in 1989-1991 the law enforcement agencies considered initiating criminal proceedings against 33 deputies at various levels of authority. In 1992 this figure more than doubled. Some of them, such as Boris Timofeyev, former deputy of the Temirtau city council, have been charged with committing contract murders. Sometimes, local legislatures have shielded from responsibility deputies holding high-ranking posts in government authorities or at enterprises. The prosecutor's office agencies have requested that criminal action be brought against 77 deputies, but they were authorized to proceed only in 39 cases.

Under the new presidential edict, deputies will enjoy immunity only while the parliament or any other representative body continues to exercise its powers. This is the first such step in the republic's history. In Mr. Belorukov's view, Kazakhstan's institution of parliamentary immunity has thus been brought in line with international standards and established world practice.

Nazarbayev Interviewed on Eve of Referendum

LD2804180095 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] After this theoretical discussion about democracy, let us return to real life. We should not forget that the upcoming event [29 April referendum on extending Nazarbayev's term in office] is outstanding and deserves talking about. The results of the referendum will not be 98 or 99 percent of voters saying yes, as was the case in some other republics. No one thinks so, because Kazakhstan is a country that has stepped on the path of democracy, and the world accepts this.

If the referendum ends successfully, and your term in office is extended, we must accept that there are fears that all power will be accumulated in the hands of one man. Thus, I have one less than pleasant question: Could this bring about a new dictatorship?

[Nazarbayev] How long are we going to go on scaring each other by saying a dictatorship is coming? What are we are talking about, saying I am going to turn democracy into dictatorship? First we should build that democracy, and then we can talk about it.

All of the people, all of Kazakhstan, know the Nazarbayev who sits before you. I do not think that are there are tendencies toward dictatorship in my character or in the direction of my work or in my actions, and there are not going to be.

As soon as we have a democratic and law-based state, we will have a parliament, government, and presidential power. Everything will be in its place.

But there will be a dictatorship as regards crime, lawbreakers, and plunderers of the state coffers. No state can be a real state without such a dictatorship.

Since I have been asked about it, I will say to you honestly, Mukhtar, and to my people. When I talked about the referendum with my family and children, they said: Dad, we do not see you. You work day and night, you cannot spend any time with us, and you do not get any rest. Is it necessary? Why do you not hand it over to someone else. That is true, thank God. I have seen quite a lot in this post, both the good and the bad.

The issue is how to move everything on now that we find ourselves in our present circumstances. Is the path that we have chosen correct or not?

If I say what I feel in my heart, my aim is to make the people critical of the president and say everything they think, and talk about all of the shortcomings. Let us work on eliminating these shortcomings.

How can I take from the people the opportunity to become a democratic and law-based state, equal to all countries in the world in independence, politics, and economics—an opportunity which the Kazakh people have gained for the first time after many centuries, a happy chance which never before happened in our history since Kazakhs appeared on the earth as a nation, with equality and freedom to say what they want in their own language and from the heart without fearing that tomorrow they will be punished or shot? What other happiness can anyone need in the world? I think I have no right to take away this happiness. I think this is what I have come into this world to do, and this is the task I have been charged with by my ancestors. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Nursultan Abishevich, we think these honest and true words of yours have touched the people.

If we look back at our history, we see that the easiest way to wipe us out is to set us against each another. It seems that since the time of Abay [19th Century Kazakh writer and philosopher] dividing us into classes and parties,

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electing a chairman—a leader for each village—has become a kind of tradition. However, we think that Kazakhstan will have a parliament as in developed countries. What will Kazakhstan's future parliament be like? What structure will it have? When will it be elected? Could you give us your opinion on this?

[Nazarbayev] Indeed, a democratic and law-based country cannot exist without a parliament. I said at the Assembly [of the Peoples of Kazakhstan], and at the plenum of the Congress of Kazakhs—I think people will remember—that we need an efficient government structure, state structure, ruling structure. As generally accepted, parliament is a legislative body. It should do its job. Therefore, as everywhere in the world, we should have a bicameral parliament, which will adopt laws only after the strictest and most comprehensive consideration, first by one chamber and then by the other.

In my view, we should not be embarrassed about talking about upper and lower chambers in parliament. We should gather qualified people together in parliament. We should stop saying that, as in the old days, there must be a milkmaid, a shoemaker, and a miner representing each region in parliament. People who are concerned with the fate of the entire people, and the whole country—lawyers, economists, or agronomists—should make up a professional parliament. And one more point: I think that we should elect people over the age of 30.

In order to implement all of this, first and foremost we must introduce appropriate changes to the constitution. What judicial system do we need? What prosecutor's office do we need? Now we agree that we should fight crime. Fighting crime is not a matter of going outside and ordering everyone about. To establish order, we must reform the law. Who should appoint judges? Who should appoint people to the Supreme Court? How many courts does Kazakhstan need?

In addition, as in any democratic state, in certain circumstances when an insoluble conflict arises between parliament and government, the president should act as arbiter and decide which one, the government or the parliament, should be dissolved. No country doubts this. If such a thing should happen, no one would complain and say that some violation had taken place.

In the course of 40 years, 38 governments have come and gone in Italy. Governments change every month In Japan—you yourselves can see what is happening there. Last year, the Pakistani president dissolved both government and parliament. There were no comments on this. In France too, a number of parliaments and governments have gone. There was no talk about it. Here, this [dissolution of parliament in March] was seen as an extraordinary event. It was an issue settled in accordance with the constitution.

If all goes well, we will have a parliament this year, but before this we should settle the problems I have spoken about. And, having a new law in accordance with generally accepted rules, we will elect our parliament at democratic elections.

But I want to appeal to the people. Please, my dear people, first find out properly what people are you electing to parliament. Let them be people who are concerned about the country's destiny. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] As President of Kazakhstan, as a citizen of the country where you were born, will you give us your opinion clearly on discussions of the state national language, your position on the issue of the purchase and sale of our Kazakh land, and your vision of the final shape of our state, our future shape as a nation?

[Nazarbayev] The main issue is to preserve our independence. If there are no people—my people, the Kazakh nation—there will be no President Nazarbayev. The president's name will be different. I am president of these people as long as they exist [as heard]. This is what I will always bear in mind. Everything I do, all of my efforts, in my travels around the world, my thoughts and actions are aimed at preserving our country's sovereignty. Sometimes this task seems very difficult. I would not advise my children to link their lives with politics. Perhaps sometimes I am forced to say some things for political reasons, but the people should understand me. I always remember our independence. This is the basic point, and everything follows on from it.

The second is inter-ethnic accord. If we fight and quarrel, what independence will there be?

The third is what we call integration. We need this both for our economy and independence. If our neighbors have peace, we will also live in peace. Respect our interests, and we will respect yours.

The fourth is the reforms we are implementing. Should we not settle these four issues first?

Let us turn to the land issue. This issue is resolved differently in various countries. I have studied the way it is settled in Germany, America, France, and Japan. Approaches are different everywhere. In some places land can be sold; in other places it cannot, but everywhere the state alone regulates land issues. Since we are going over to market economy, the issue should be resolved in the following way. If you and I have decided to build a house, we should be owners of those 10-12 hundredth parts [sotki] of land around the house. I may build a house there, I may sell a part of it, and I may rent it out and receive money for it: This is entirely my affair.

As for land being used for agricultural purposes, it cannot be sold. Right now land can be leased for 100 years, and there are rights of inheritance. What better decision could be made? In my opinion, this system is correct and good. The people should agree to this.

Now about language: I have said more than once, and again whenever I meet representatives of various ethnic

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cultural groups, Russians and others, that you make up about 30 percent of Kazakhstan's population, while 50 percent are Kazakhs. All right, say that in your interests we give your language the status of a state language: How will you feel the following day, when those 50 percent who are Kazakhs begin to protest? Why do you think only about yourselves? What in the world have the Kazakhs have done to you? Who these days persecutes anyone for not knowing the Kazakh language? [Nazarbayev begins to speak in Russian] The land issue is being solved differently in various countries. Thre is no need to use florid language in this instance, and win cheap authority. According to the German way of settling the issue, as well as the Japanese, and the French way, the only land that can be sold is land on which you have built your own house, and on which you have your own personal plot. This land is your own. You have a right to rent out this land or to sell a part of it, or to sell everything together with it.

If some investor, our own or foreign, asks for land to build on, perhaps for a modern plant making electronic appliances, cars, or consumer goods, or a perfume factory, we have to sell him the land—but only under terms which define what he may do with the land, and wto hom he must not sell it later on. I think, under such conditions, the land can be purchased and sold.

In Kazakhstan's conditions, agricultural land cannot be subject to trade. In present conditions, where the poor farmer has no money to run his farm, how can he buy land? People with money from a city, a village, or other states, can buy, and they certainly will buy the best plots which the state intends to use for building plants and factories. And this will cause the most horrible corruption the world has ever seen: sale and purchase of land and land speculation. We would bring about complete chaos in the state. Therefore, our decision is the following: Agricultural land under certain conditions and in accordance with the law of Kazakhstan can be given for life annuity, with the right of inheritance. What does not suit you in this? I think this suits everyone.

As for language. In no CIS state is the Russian language defined under the constitution as a language of interethnic communication, and no constitution in the CIS, including the constitutions of Ukraine and, moreover, the Baltic states, gives it equal status with the Kazakh language; moreover, persecution of a man because of his ignorance of the state language is prohibited. If a problem connected with language arises, we have to settle it. I have promised to put this question to the people themselves. I am going to do this after the people say yes to me at the upcoming referendum. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, in Russian] Ecclesiastes says that generations come and go but the earth endures through the ages. It also says there is a time for scattering stones and a time for gathering stones. What do you thing the time is now for?

[Nazarbayev, in Russian] I think it is probably a time for gathering the stones, if you interpret it literally. That was said about a different philosophical case.

Why do I say this? I understand the subtext of your question. I think the people of Kazakhstan must look to their future with confidence. With a population of 16.5 million we have a territory that ranks among the top 10 states in the world. We have resources, underground wealth, which also rate among the top 10 countries. I said earlier that we have only just started developing it. Without money, without foreign investment, we would never have been able to do that. This investment came because of our stability and our policies.

Kazakhstan threatens no one. Our credo is independence for our country, integration with all our neighbors, inter-ethnic accord, and the pursuit of reform—four component elements.

I consider that the independence of the state, for which I, as president, am responsible under the constitution, has been placed on a legal footing, now that we have security guarantees from such great powers as the United States, Great Britain, and Russia, and just recently the People's Republic of China. For the first time in history we have secured the border with our great eastern neighbor. We have good treaties with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. We are creating a common economic zone and conditions in which we can create and progress.

If this does not happen, we will not have the time to work on problems of reform, and we do need to work on them.

Thus, as the turning point in all our work approaches—I have compared it to the 1943 Battle of Kursk when I have spoken with war veterans. The Soviet Army achieved a turning point in the Battle of Kursk with huge losses; it was not victory, yet it eased things immediately. They went on the offensive. It took two more years of fighting, of being on the offensive; it was to be two years before they got to Berlin. We are in approximately the same situation. We have gone over to the offensive. It is somewhat easier, but still difficult.

So the people must understand that without such painful reforms there can be no transition from one system to another, from one policy to another. It has never happened painlessly anywhere. Thank God we are going through this in a calmer environment than all the others. All of the work we are doing is thus directed toward this.

Now, as I address the citizens of Kazakhstan, I would like to reaffirm that I am not playing down the difficulties which currently exist. I know that people have it hard; I know how some people are suffering; and I appeal to everyuone who has had an opportunity to work and earn money during the reform process to help those who do not have money. Help the suffering. That will create opportunities to develop further and work freely.

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I have always prided myself in the people's support for all I do, and I continue to do so. That is where I derive my strength: when I sense I have support. Now, when I listen and see people and communicate with them, that gives me strength. There is nothing superior to the will of the people.

The people will express their will at this referendum. I call on everyone to do his civic duty and not to sit at home but come and express his fundamental attitude. The authority of the state—and I will not conceal the fact: the president, too—depend on how many people come, on how large the turnout is.

The support you show for me at this referendum will give me the strength to move ahead, while consulting with you and taking your wishes and what you want into account, with one goal: to do everything to improve the lives of ordinary people.

Public Surveyed on Support For Referendum

954F2175A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "For and Against"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Coming as a surprise to the employees of the newspaper themselves, there has been a narrowing of the subject matter of the editorial mailbag as of late. On the agenda today is the referendum. This is probably natural—people respond in an instant to what particularly engages their thinking.

It is held that society, hounded by "perestroyka," is indifferent to what is going on around it and is living merely with worries about its daily bread, come to that. Nothing of the sort!

In letters and telegrams from all over, personal and group, Kazakhstanis are expressing various viewpoints on the referendum. But the overwhelming number of these messages are for an extension of the president's term.

Whether the opponents of the referendum like it or not, such is the opinion of folk locally—the people, as it is customary to say. That we have gotten used to doing without this opinion and that in the heat of argument there is frequently no mention of the position of the ordinary statistical citizen, who bears on his thoroughly threadbare shoulders all the experiments of the economic transformations, is another matter.

To sound out public opinion in greater depth and to compare the viewpoints of the readers of KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA and the inhabitants of the republic, the newspaper conducted a sociological survey in various regions, asking respondents the question, "Do you support the referendum for an extension of the presidential term?" Seventy-two percent of those polled responded in the affirmative. Thirteen percent were opposed. Just over 15 percent have yet to settle on their choice.

What precisely prompted people to give a negative response? Some are wondering: Is this not a return to the everlasting general secretaries, is it not a winding down of democracy? Others insist on "normal presidential elections because the referendum results could be juggled." While he is paying much attention to war participants and invalids, elderly people censure the president for "abandoning senior citizens, who are in need and who do not receive their pensions for months on end to the whim of fate." This could, obviously, be put in the "constructive" criticism category for the bulk of elderly respondents are prepared, despite everything, to turn out for the referendum on 29 April and to support their president.

The following are among the frequently cited reasons of referendum opponents: the fall in the living standard, the growth in the number of unemployed, the increase in the number of people living below the poverty line.

It is interesting, however, that the people actively in favor of the referendum, while citing the same difficulties, are hoping that "the president will be able, if he is not impeded, to find a solution for these problems more quickly, and social tension will, consequently, more quickly subside."

Many people believe that N. Nazarbayev is a guarantor of stability and consistency in implementation of the reforms. The construction workers of Zhambyl are of the opinion that there is in Kazakhstan as yet no more purposeful politician than the present president. People of Atyrau are impressed by N. Nazarbayev's position of consolidation of ties to Russia and the fact that our republic "is one of the few countries of the CIS in which interethnic harmony has been preserved, which is undoubtedly to the personal credit of the president." It was this fact that was decisive in their choice.

The age discrepancy of those polled is interesting. Among those who are opposed to the referendum are mainly middle-aged people between the ages of 30 and 46 and a small number of senior citizens. Among those who are for it are the youth and also people over the age of 46, including the bulk of senior citizens.

Almaty Residents Surveyed on Referendum

954F2186A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Tamara Klimova, leader of the Almaty City Administration Information and Analysis Center, and Mariya Zaslavskaya, senior lecturer of the Abay Almaty State University: "Active Supporters Constitute the Majority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information and Analysis Center of the Almaty City Administration in conjunction with the Abay Almaty State University Research

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and Sociology Center conducted a snap poll on the attitude of capital inhabitants toward the republic referendum.

The poll was conducted at 12 industrial enterprises and in five health-care institutions, three higher educational institutions, two colleges, five schools, and several cultural-educational, consumer service, and trade establishments. Altogether some 1,450 persons took part.

Some 85.1 percent of the respondents supported the idea of the republic referendum, which confirms the high approval rating and authority of the president among the inhabitants of the capital, and 83.2 percent, an extension of his term,. At the same time, on the other hand, an analysis of the responses makes it possible to forecast the passive reception and deliberate avoidance of participation in the referendum of people disenchanted with the actions of the president under the influence of personal motives and socioeconomic losses. This group includes senior citizens and students.

Some 7.3 percent of the respondents are against the idea of the referendum (7.6 percent were undecided), and 9.4 percent were opposed to an extension of the president's term (7.4 percent were undecided).

The active supporters of the referendum (85 percent) cited as being among the most important problems Kazakhstan's territorial integrity within the current borders and its sovereignty, interethnic accord and civil peace, and the republic's worthy position in the international community.

To the question "What political processes or phenomena disturb you the most and for which you would like a positive solution?" respondents opted for the three to five most significant of the 15 proposed response alternatives: the surmounting of the crisis state of the economy; the fight against crime; observance of human rights; and the recognition of Russian as a state language together with Kazakh. What is more, 71 percent of respondents highlighted the surmounting of the crisis state of the economy and connect a resolution of this problem with the name of the president.

The block of economic and everyday problems of the townspeople is, as before, an influential factor of commitment to the policy of the current reforms and of the potential loyalty of the populace to the practical steps of the leadership of the republic.

Health came first and was followed by a good job and earnings, love and mutual understanding in the home, a good apartment and everyday conveniences, and for research workers and higher educational institution lecturers, the possibility of working without pressure from anywhere, for employees of the service sphere and some workers, having their own business and not depending on others, and for senior citizens, health, sufficient income, confidence in the future, optimism, and feeling good. The possibility of travel to the far and near abroad and meaningful leisure time are of interest mainly to the youth. Lecturers and teachers value particularly cordial relations with their comrades at work.

The results of the sociological study show that the vast majority of those polled supports President N.A. Nazarbayev, sees no alternative to him, believes that he can overcome all the difficulties, and considers the foreign and domestic policy that he is pursuing well considered and balanced. In a word, the people of Almaty are capable of an adequate appreciation of the president's efforts in preservation of the territorial integrity of the republic within its existing borders and its sovereignty and security and of his having led Kazakhstan to a fitting place in the world community. They note that the president is the guarantor of the observance of human rights and is defending the interests of the national minorities and is opposed to all forms of the manifestation of chauvinism and nationalism.

But the palette of public opinion is diverse. Not all voters, parties, and movements perceive the referendum unequivocally. As the issue was being put together, A. Dokuchayeva, chairman of the Lad republic social Slavic movement, came to the editorial office and insistently demanded publication of a dissenting opinion.

The leadership of the movement appealed to its supporters and all grassroots organizations, parties, and citizens of the republic to take part in the referendum and to say "no" to an extension of the president's term without multiple-choice elections.

True to the principle of pluralism, we publish this view also.

Commission Chairman on Referendum Plans

954F2187A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Yuriy Kim, chairman of the Central Commission for Carrying Out the Referendum, by KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Lunev: "Ready at Every Precinct"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The republic is on the threshold of a big political event—the popular referendum, the first in our country. Yuriy Kim, chairman of the Central Commission for Carrying Out the Referendum, in an interview by a KAZTAG correspondent tells how the preparations for this event are proceeding.

"Practically all preparation work has been completed," he said. "There are 10,917 precincts and as many commissions, all set up and supplied with the necessary documentation, ballots, technical means, transportation, and telephone communications. Of course voter lists also have been compiled. As of 15 April, 8,897,281 voters were registered. Naturally, in the days remaining until the expression of popular will this figure may change. Life does not stand still. Some people leave our country, and some come in for permanent residence."

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[Lunev] What problems has the central commission encountered in the process of preparation for this historic event?

[Kim] The kind that could be expected. First of all, the time crunch. Of course, one month is too short a time to organize such a large-scale and important event without the utmost strain on everyone. Nor did the commission have relevant experience—we had, as they say, to learn as we went, and in this respect we got a lot of help from ministries and agencies, local administrations and councils. Especially with respect to outfitting election precincts.

[Lunev] Working directly with people, commission members probably know the population's mood better than anyone else. In your opinion, what is the people's attitude to the referendum?

[Kim] You know, mainly positive. Kazakhstanis are becoming increasingly convinced that it is being conducted on a democratic basis; they realize that this is not a good time to start a presidential election campaign and drop midway the economic transformations that have been already started.

Especially considering that what has been done already has begun to bear fruit. We have managed to rein in inflation. Especially with respect to further rises in prices for foodstuffs and industrial goods. Industrial production is rising, albeit slower than we would like to see. The flow of foreign investment to our country is increasing, mainly due to the atmosphere of political stability and interethnic peace here. All of this is being noticed and felt by urban and rural inhabitants in their daily life. And, of course, it is predominantly linked with the activities and the name of the head of the state. Hence people's positive feelings about Nursultan Nazarbayev, confidence in him. The willingness to give him a sort of a carte blanche to continue and intensify the reform.

[Lunev] How will public monitoring be implemented at the plebiscite?

[Kim] The Central Electoral Commission issued a relevant decree, which permits representatives of parties and social movements to monitor precinct voting and to be present at the opening of ballot boxes. This graphically confirms once again that the referendum is being conducted on a democratic basis.

[Lunev] And the last question. What is your forecast regarding the referendum results?

[Kim] Generally speaking, forecasting is a thankless business. But I personally believe that the overwhelming majority of Kazakhstan citizens will cast a "yes" ballot.

Referendum of Presidential Term Over

LD2904094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Vladir[illegible]kimov and Amangeldy Akhmetalimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMA-ATA 29 (Itar-Tass)—Kazakhstan's referendum on extension of the presidential mandate of Nursultan Nazarbayev to December 2000 is over.

According to reports from district commissions, the turnout during the first five hours of polling was four million 697 thousands, which is 53 percent of eligible voters.

Voters Favor Extension of Nazarbayev's Powers

LD3004052295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0443 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldy Akhmetalimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY April 30 (Itar-Tass)—According to preliminary data, 95.46 percent of people in Kazakhstan, who went to the polls for a referendum on Saturday, voted for an extension of the powers of President Nursultan Nazarbayev until the year 2000.

In all, the plebiscite involved 91.26 percent of the country's citizens with the right to vote.

The Central Referendum Commission intends to make public the final results of the polling in two or three days' time.

Nazarbayev on Preliminary Referendum Results

LD3004132395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1151 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Akimov and Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty, 30 Apr—"By exercising their choice, the Kazakh people have given their common motherland an opportunity for stability and creative work in the next five years and voiced a decisive 'no' to insurrection and grave shocks." Now, there is no task more serious than getting the country out of the present severe economic crisis, a statement made by President Nursultan Nazarbayev says. He made the statement after the preliminary results of the referendum held in Kazakhstan on 29 April were published.

The statement notes that the referendum is nothing but "a forced measure aimed at overcoming delays in implementation of the political, economic, and social reforms and, therefore, is obviously an extraordinary measure. In view of the situation in the country and the fact that the state has just embarked on a course of democratic development, the referendum should be considered by society as an acceptable measure."

The Kazakh leader swept aside conjectures being spread about by individuals in the republic and abroad about his desire to establish authoritarian methods of government, describing them as "absolutely groundless and irresponsible." He stressed his "aim of full liberalization

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to create the most favorable conditions for realizing economic freedoms" and gave his assurance that "parliamentary elections will be held in the country this year."

The statement also says that the Kazakh head of state's fundamental values have always been and remain, in first place, the strengthening of interethnic peace, the republic's independence, and the deepening of reforms and integration processes with all states of the CIS and Russia and the Central Asian states. It contains a warning to those who attempt "to shatter interethnic accord."

"I will not permit anyone to do that in Kazakhstan," Nazarbayev warns very unambiguously.

Nazarbayev Holds News Conference

LD3004205195 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Kazkah 1100 GMT 30 Apr 95

[News conference by President Nursultan Nazarbayev with foreign and domestic correspondents in Almaty on 30 April—recorded; bolded passages in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] **Thank you for coming to this news conference on a weekend. I will make a brief statement, and then you will have an opportunity to ask questions.**

Respected compatriots, the referendum, a great event in the history of our country, took place yesterday.

We have received preliminary data from the Central Election Committee. The majority of our people, over 90 percent, came to the polls and expressed their confidence, in spite of the current difficult times. All of the people have shown as one that they are concerned about our future and peace in our country.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for your confidence. As I have said before, I will devote all of my strength to our country's happiness, to peace in the country, and to the prosperity of our state.

Thank you very much for your support. I congratulate you on the upcoming May holidays: 1 May and the 50th anniversary of victory. I wish everyone, every citizen of our country, all of our people prosperity and a happy future.

Dear compatriots, according to the preliminary data presented by the Central Commission on the referendum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the absolute majority of citizens who participated in yesterday's ballot expressed their approval of the policies we are pursing and the strategic aim of building a strong, prosperous, independent, democratic, and free state in Kazakhstan, based on the vital interests of citizens.

According to the latest information the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission has given me—it is, of course, preliminary data which will be made more precise, and the final results then announced—91.3 percent of the voters on the electoral roll took part in the vote; 95.4 percent of them said yes.

There is a moment of truth in every politician's life. Twenty- nine April this year is such a day for me. I would like to express my gratitute to the millions of residents of Kazakhstan who made a balanced choice yesterday and gave our common homeland a chance for stability and constructiveness over the next five years, and by saying a resolute no to needless sedition and grave shocks.

Your confidence is a reward, and there can be nothing higher than that for a head of state. The fact that you have supported me in this complicated time of crisis, and which for well-known reasons has enveloped not only Kazakhstan but all other CIS countries, is of particular importance. Thanks to their characteristic wisdom, the people have risen above the transient issues, the things that come and go and stir things up because of the temporary difficulties and disarray that a great number of our citizens are facing.

At this hour, along with the joy of winning, I certainly feel a great responsibility and the burden of work ahead that rests on my shoulders. When I addressed you before the referendum, I said that I was not concealing the difficulties and would not do so in the future. There is still much work to do to implement political, economic, and social reforms; impose order; and introduce discipline. This difficult step, the nationwide referendum, was taken with precisely this aim. The referendum was held in full accordance with the laws of our state, and it is our victory. We have no time for a running start.

The referendum on extending the president's term in office is nothing more than an attempt to force politics forward in an attempt to make up the fatal gap. It is an extraordinary but quite acceptable measure which provides an opportunity to make our reforms more dynamic. It has therefore put some people on guard. However, this has only confirmed that the measure is a necessary one.

Those words bandied about with regard to dictatorship are absolutely unfounded and irresponsible. Let there be an end to intimidating us with that scare tactic. We are firmly advancing with a policy of complete liberalization, which will create the most favorable conditions in which citizens' economic freedoms can be made a reality.

There will be parliamentary elections this year. We will not move away from the road of democratic change. If it were any other way, not only Nazarbayev but our country too would lose the image and authority they now have. It is our conscious choice.

In any case, one must not forget that democracy is only just knocking on our door at the moment. There is no need to mourn what we do not even have yet, in the form that we want to see it.

The actions and statements of politicians often differ drastically before and after an expression of the electorate's will. That will not happen with me. The people of

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Kazakhstan know me. I affirm, just as I did before the referendum, that the main things of value to me are inter-ethnic peace, integration, the independence of Kazakstan, and reforms. I will not allow anyone to shake the inter-ethnic accord which the people of Kazakhstan hold dear.

We are virtually taking the first steps in our new history. I promise to do everything that lies within my power to ensure that war does not come to our common home, Kazakhstan, to maintain and consolidate our state's independence. I will do everything to ensure that our age-old bonds with the CIS countries, especially Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan and the other Central Asian states, are strengthened. We will also pay a great deal of attention to economic and political rapprochement and close contact with the developed states of the far abroad, with which we are forming very good political and economic relationships. I am relying on you to support my efforts in this area actively. I am certain that it is in the interests of our citizens.

As the first nationally elected president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, our country's independence is for me no abstract symbol but a concrete and very great historical achievement. Any encroachment on Kazakhstan's sovereignty or territorial integrity will be dealt with resolutely.

My objectives are absolutely clear and open, and as the referendum has shown, are supported by our people. Miracles exist only in the world of fantasy or in the words of political demagogues; they do not happen in ordinary life. Wealth is obtained without labor only in fairy tales. There is no task more important for our time than that of lifting the country out of the economic crisis which it is undergoing. I have promised no miracles and have not deceived the people. I will therefore support any government, and will judge it purely by the real results it achieves in the economy and social sector, by how successfully it pursues its policy.

Those who are prepared and able to work will begin to have better lives in the next few years. But there will be no easy life for the idle. One cannot consume more than one's labor has produced. At the same time, the state will help the pensioners, invalids, and families with many children in an increasingly targeted form, channeling all possible resources into doing so.

Dear compatriots, I am not afraid to repeat myself by saying that your confidence makes it possible to concentrate fully on measures to deepen the reforms and to revive and increase production. This has already started. I have signed a package of laws which will deepen reform. A law on bankruptcy comes next; it will be issued in a few days. You have already had a chance to have a look at the tax code. And there are a number of other laws.

All of this, of course, is intended to produce an increase in the standard of living and to overcome as soon as possible the consequences of this transition period, which has been so hard for everyone. All of the conditions needed to attract foreign and domestic investment to the production sector, for those engaged in producing goods, will be created.

I assure you that the state will not relax its efforts to strengthen discipline, law, and order, and the resolute war on crime and corruption. All of this is a necessary precondition for the development and deepening of democratic processes.

To sum up, I should say that the results of the referendum attest to the cohesion of our multi-ethnic people. I am proud to belong to our people, a people united by the simple, humane words friendship, fraternity, and unity of all citizens of our multi-ethnic homeland.

I would like to thank the political parties; public committees; the media; you journalists who are here, and through you all members of the writing fraternity, including the leading Russian media bodies, the workforces and their managers, the heads of regional administrations and their staff at all levels, who supported the basic idea of a referendum. I thank all of the members of the election commissions and everyone who worked and contributed to ensuring that the referendum was properly run.

I am profoundly grateful to the heads of state of Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, and elsewhere, as well as the heads of the Russian regions contiguous with Kazakhstan who saw a need to speak up in my support.

I also respect the wishes expressed by those citizens who voted no. By doing so, they implemented their constitutional right. By their action, they confirmed the democratic nature of our society. I will try to do everything I can to provide them with reasons to change their opinion.

I thank you, dear people of Kazakhstan, for the high degree of confidence you have shown in me. [applause] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] **A great deal has been written (?in the American press) about the decision to hold the referendum as being seen as a turning point to a more authoritarian regime, saying also that whereas Kazakhstan was previously positioned somewhere between Russia and the rest of Central Asia, after this decision Kazakhstan can now be assessed in the same way that its neighbors are. How would you answer these arguments?**

[Nazarbayev] It is easy to come up with arguments when you are on the other side of the ocean, far from our area. Kazakhstan and our neighbors—you probably mean Uzbekistan and the other republics—are situated in Asia, and we have a certain mentality. If the West is really interested in democracy being victorious here, then we have to admit that given the transition from authoritarianism to democracy in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan in the last three of four years, there could not be the kind of democracy they have in Britain. We, who are the current authorities, have to do everything to bring this democracy to our lands in a real and calm way.

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So let us have an end to mourning something that has never existed here. Everything that is being done is being done in order to introduce democratic principles into our state in a real and calm manner. I assure you, and everyone who has said these things, that I think you will have an opportunity to judge matters by the practical steps which we will undertake in future, after all that has happened.

[Ian McWilliam, UK correspondent, in English] You said yesterday at your polling station that one of your first tasks after the referendum would be to develop democracy in Kazakhstan. Can you tell us exactly what steps you now intend to take to develop democracy?

[Nazarbayev] **What lies ahead of us now is constitutional reforms. The constitution that was adopted was a compromise between the former regime and the present and future. We have now arrived at a situation where the constitution has begun to slow not only the democratic processes but also the process of economic reforms.**

A question has just been asked. The constitution does not resolve issues of ownership, and it does not even resolve questions of allowing private education establishments or medical insurance in Kazakhstan, to say nothing about land. None of these problems has been resolved at all.

The issue of legal reforms has not been resolved. As long as we have no legal basis we cannot develop anything. Issues therefore need to be resolved through the constitution. Moreover, the constitution must match the standards of democratic states. That is the basis on which we can develop all other areas of social life, both political and economic ones, about which you asked.

[Kozlov, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] **The two branches of power: judicial and legislative. Are there plans to introduce changes to the election code that will lead to the establishment of what it is now fashionably called a bicameral parliament, which will remind us of an assembly of deputies appointed by direct presidential order, or elected through a mixed system, as with 102 deputies in the previous parliament? And is the country's leadership planning to carry out an accelerated judicial reform by the end of the year, including the appointment of all judges on a Board of Judges set up under the president?**

And my second question, if you will allow me, is this: Does the constitution not theoretically rule out the holding of presidential elections in 2001, after 1 December 2000? If so, what your are going to do in that case? Thank you.

[Nazarbayev] **Under the constitution none of these things is possible. If you want to know my personal opinion, I think that given Kazakhstan's conditions we should have a bicameral parliament: a senate which defines the opinions of Kazakhstan's regions, and a chamber of deputies elected from one-seat constituencies. Everything, all these elections, are to be held entirely on the basis of democratic principles. And the legal, judicial reforms you talked about also cannot be carried out without constitutional reforms, without changes. God willing, I think there will be normal presidential elections in 2000.**

Everyone is probably interested in what I personally will do. Everything will depend on how I withstand these five remaining years. As a human being, not as a president, I can say that all you journalists should ask me: Why should you, who are just a human being, burden yourself with such a load? Do you not have enough? But for some reason no one asks. But I ask myself that question. So let us discuss what's going to happen in 2000 in the year 2000. Everyone should work and justify those hopes which the people have placed in us. [passage omitted]

Since we are meeting like this, let us talk honestly, openly and man-to-man about languages, which is what worries us. Well, I will inform you about citizenship, too.

A certain group of people who are not ordinary working people, but rather hack politicians who have never earned any political authority anywhere, have only one lever left: the state language. Not a single citizen of Kazakhstan has come to any prosecution service office complaining that he has been discriminated against for not knowing the Kazakh language. If you know of anyone, please tell me and submit a report. No one has been dismissed or fired, refused property, or not allowed to take part in privatization.

I want to say it once again. Nowhere in any other CIS member country, and I am including the Baltic republics, of course, is it stated that Russian is the language of inter-ethnic communication; I mean in the constitution. And our constitution goes on to say that discrimination against a citizen for not knowing the state language or the language of inter-ethnic communication is prohibited. The next point in the constitution grants the opportunity for all languages to develop freely. In the Baltic republics, specifically Estonia, where I have been, 30 percent of the population are Slavs but they are not citizens of the country. In order to become the citizens they have to pass an examination to show a knowledge of Estonian and Estonian legislation, and to have lived there for 10 years. You all keep silent about this, for some reason.

Yet you raise problems where there are no problems. It is not the people who are raising the problems. This is what the people have said. [slaps papers on rostrum] I can tell you, if you are interested. In East Kazakhstan Region 90.3 percent voted for Nazarbayev; I have spoken honestly about this. Now then, Akmola Region 94.2 percent voted for, and 93 percent took part. East Kazakhstan Region, 90.3 percent, as I have already said. West Kazakhstan, 92 percent; Pavlodar, 95 percent; and Karaganda: 92 percent.

I said openly and honestly before the referendum: Let us suppose hypothetically that I address our people tomorrow and say: Let us make Kazakh and Russian the state languages. But you just try to bring it home to the population. Immediately the question will arise of compulsory knowledge of both state languages for everyone,

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especially those employed by the state. Is that not the case? Once you have two state languages, let us raise the question. And it will benefit the Kazakh language, which is in a lesser position than Russian in Kazakhstan. I am not saying this for the Kazakh electorate: It will benefit it because we will immediately raise the issue in the constitution that everyone must know both the state languages.

OK, even if we get past this, you have said there are 8 million Kazakhs in Kazakhstan, and 5 million Slavs altogether. What will these Slavs gain if they are set against 8 million Kazakhs? Immediately, the same question in reverse will be raised every day. Who wants this? Tell me, please. The question will arise in reverse. Why? Because the Kazakh language was denigrated during Soviet rule and became a vernacular. A grandson cannot speak with his grandfather to ask for bread, salt, or a glass of water. And here you are, Nazarbayev, taking advantage of our confidence to denigrate it, and you want to eliminate it completely.

If you want this, and if you want us to sit down in this hall and tackle the issue in reverse later on, then go ahead. I am in favor of eliminating all the problems which exist in Kazakhstan. Why not? It is our country, after all. I do not know what the people will decide; I will tell you honestly what I think about this.

The Kazakh language is the state language. It was the state language when Kazakhstan was called the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic. Remember history. Nothing has changed. Leave it as the state language. Taking account not only of the Russian-speaking citizens in Kazakhstan, but also of the needs of the Kazakh people themselves, who need Russian like the air they breathe, like their daily bread, let us say that the Russian language has official status for use in the state sphere, not the status of an inter-ethnic language. And let us go on to state that the requirement that state employees must know the state language comes into force in no less than 15 years. Tell me please, will you support me if I put this to the people?

On the one hand, we will be able to explain to the Kazakh electorate that we have preserved everything we had. On the other hand, we can explain to the Russian speakers that they should take the other side's opinion into account. For example, the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan, which has representatives of 102 nations and peoples elected from all cultural centers in the regions, supports this approach. I would be very interested to know how this discriminates against anyone.

I think we solved the citizenship problem in the best possible way with the Russian leadership in January. I have promised, and I do promise, to submit a draft on the same thing for all CIS countries. What does the agreement on simplified procedures for acquiring citizenship say? Taking into account the special relationship between Russia and Kazakhstan, if a citizen of Kazakhstan moves to Russia he must be given citizenship without procrastination or hitches. If a citizen of Russia moves to Kazakhstan he must acquire Kazakhstan citizenship.

Time will pass and people will decide for themselves. Why are we making them have complexes about citizenship and wonder whether they will be citizens or not. No one can retain anyone by force, although I pity anyone who leaves Kazakhstan. There is enough land here, there is enough wealth here, and there will be work for everyone. I am sure that in a few years we will invite hundreds of thousands of workers from Russian to work in Kazakhstan. That is how the situation is developing. That is what happens all over the world. We will invite them, and they will come. What is there here that does not suit you? Tell me, please.

In my opinion, Ukraine is also attempting to do the same with Russia. Belarus is going to do the same with Russia. It would be wonderful if a person could move quite freely across Cis territory, and live, work, and study where he wants. Citizenship would be no obstacle to him.

Let us imagine hypothetically that we grant dual citizenship. The average age of the Kazakh population in Kazakhstan is 25-26 years old. The average age of the rest of Kazakhstan's population is 54-55 years old. You should know that the Kazakh population is growing at an annual rate of 2.6 percent. It now makes up exactly 50 percent. This trend is going to continue. Where will public life in Kazakhstan go? Must we take it into consideration and adapt ourselves to the future, or should we face and tackle the problem every time?

Well, let us say you have two passports in your pocket. Whatever I might do here and whatever laws I might pass, such a person will nevertheless be second class. I will put it to you openly. Will it be a problem for him to join the secret service? It will. If a team leader or workshop chief is being elected by the workforce, I will not be able to do anything if they say you have a second residence, and we need someone who will work for this factory and live and work here. The question will arise of promotion in the army; he will have to serve in Russia and in Kazakhstan. Marriage will have to be registered in Russia and Kazakhstan. He must register his diploma both here and there, and then get it ratified, and so on.

Who needs this? Tell me, please. For what is this being done? It is being done to create strife in certain circles, and to create chaos in Kazakhstan. It has nothing to do with concern for ordinary people.

I have ratified this agreement. And I have learned that some of our former deputies, including Valeriy Galenko from Pavlodar [head of the Slavia Cultural Association], Viktor Mikhailov from Akmola [head of Lad group], and some others went to the Duma to ask them not to ratify this agreement. Will not the nation see what kind of people these are? If they did not do this I offer my apologies in advance, but I do have exact figures, because I sent out trackers; I phoned Rybkin, and I phoned Yeltsin last week saying: People are waiting, ratify this agreement.

Therefore, in line with the Constitution of Kazakhstan there will no other solution to this issue. Let us end the matter there.

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[Correspondent] [words indistinct] these issues are to be solved, and you said soon. On the question of changes to the constitution: When? There is talk among journalists that we are on the eve of a new referendum in June or July. Please confirm or deny this time-scale. A second question: Will the law and order operation be halted now that this referendum has ended? Thank you.

[Nazarbayev] Within the next few days a list of our prominent lawyers will be published, including Western lawyers. I have already reached agreement on this, including the chairman of the constitutional council in France. A group of lawyers for constitutional reform will be formed.

I will not conceal the fact that I am going to propose my own version of the draft constitution to people, of course with the support of the authors of the most democratic constitutions in the world. A large constitutional conference will be called, involving all movements, political parties, assemblies, heads of administrations, and local councils, where we will discuss this draft. I do not know when; it should be speeded up and not dragged out. If it were ready in June I would welcome it, but I am afraid it will not be ready then. It must be published and the people given a month in which to discuss it, and for the proposals which are submitted to be collated. After that it must be submitted for nationwide discussion.

Once this constitution has been adopted, a new and democratic law on elections must be passed on the basis of the constitution, in order for all of your criticism about lack of democracy to be eliminated, and a new parliament elected. That is the whole of my plan, without any secrets. we will not drag things out or slow them down artificially. Everything will progress naturally.

I have heard a lot from people like you about my calling in Nikita Mikhalkov, although I have known him for a long time. I had no idea. I just like him. I went to his presentation. Anyone else? The (Nakhibbekov) sisters also turned up for referendum, apparently, and all that kind of thing.

And apparently the war on crime was also done for the referendum, although when we started it I spoke about this. All of the rest—some newspaper, ARGUMENTI I FAKTY, I think—carried a day-by-day chronology to show how tricky Nazarbayev is, how he has deceived everyone again, how he got around things, how he set it all up, and so on.

I tell you that the Constitutional Court's decision [declaring 1994 elections invalid and prompting Nazarbayev to dissolve parliament] was a bolt out of the blue for me, but you will not believe me. So what can I do?

The issue of the war on crime is thus a question of whether the reform will be victorious. If a person accumulates wealth and collects money, but then people come along and take it away, I do not think there can be any order. That is why everything that has been done will be continued until its victorious conclusion. [passage omitted]

Next comes friendship with all our neighbors. Kazakhstan particularly appreciates that the United States of America, Great Britain, Russia, and China have given us guarantees of the inviolability of Kazakhstan's borders, of nonaggression towards Kazakhstan, and of protection from aggression for Kazakhstan. We will greatly strengthen our relations with these states even further.

Our priority continues to be Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and other neighboring states—our brothers. That is not because Nazarbayev loves these countries and was brought up on Russian culture, which is actually the case; I do this because I love the Kazakh nation at the same time. This nation must go forward, build its future, think and dream together with Russia and the Russian people, together with Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people, with the Kyrgyz people, with the Turkmen people, and with Tajik people. We are all brother-nations. We have similar mentalities. I will try not to create more difficulties at this difficult time for people, and I will do everything to make us develop together and be great friends.

To this end Kazakhstan, as a state geopolitically situated at the junction of Europe and Asia, will undoubtedly develop its newly- established good relations with Western states: the United States of America, Germany, France, and Turkey, with which we have especially active and broad relations.

I can tell you just one thing. An analytical study which was recently sent to me by United Nations committees says that in the next 10 years most of the private investments in the economies of the eastern and European states of the CIS will go to Kazakhstan: 38 percent out of all investments, out of the $107 billion which the West and private investors will invest in the next 11 years.

If everything remains calm inside the country, and we develop our country together as friends, I want to say that in 10 or 11 years you will not recognize Kazakhstan. We ourselves will become different people, and this country will be different. That is what I want. I wish it not only for Kazakhstan; I want it to happen in Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, too, because a good situation and good development there will creates an excellent background. This is all the more so because we and these countries are creating a common economic space, integrating our economies, and not closing the routes for the movement of people, goods, and capital.

These are the fundamental points which we will tackle on the basis of advancing the reforms, curbing inflation in Kazakhstan, strengthening our national currency the tenge, rendering targeted help to all low-paid strata of the population, and moving forward by urging everybody else to work for themselves and earn their fortunes.

That, in brief, was what I wanted to say to you. Thank you. I wish you all the best, and congratulate you on the upcoming 1 May holiday and the 50th anniversary of Victory.

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Removal of SS-18 Nuclear Warheads Completed

MM2804132695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Krivomazov of Strategic Missile Forces Press Center under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "Removal of ICBM Warheads Completed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakhstan—The removal of the nuclear charges of the RS-20 (SS-18) ICBM's from the Republic of Kazakhstan to the territory of the Russian Federation was completed 24 April.

The Strategic Missile Forces grouping in Kazakhstan is being eliminated on the basis of the protocol to the START I Treaty signed in Lisbon 23 May 1992. Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine adopted pledges to guarantee the elimination of all the offensive strategic arms located on their territories within seven years. After the breakup of the USSR 104 RS-20 (SS-18) ICBM's with multiple reentry vehicles remained in Kazakhstan. Each of the multiple reentry vehicles had 10 nuclear charges. They have now all been removed.

Tajikistan

UN Counted On To Boost Role in Settling Conflict

LD2804172295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1627 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Tajikistan is interested in active participation of the United Nations organisation in development of the inter-Tajik dialogue, newly-appointed Tajik permanent representative to the U.N. Rashid Alimov told Itar-Tass here today.

"We count on boosted U.N. role in the achievement of civil peace in the republic. This task would be hard to fulfill without this support," said Alimov.

He thinks that the participation of Russia and other Commonwealth member-states in the search for accord is also very important. "The inter-Tajik dialogue goes on with the assistance of Russian diplomats. The fact that the dialogue goes on, let us call it negotiations, consultations or something else, is a positive phenomenon. I think that the sides want to hold it. Anyway, this is stressed by the president and the government who are firmly adherent to the dialogue. We are planning to develop this stand and use the help of our friends who are interested in peaceful political settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict," said the ambassador.

Aliyev, ex-Tajik foreign minister, will leave for New York in mid-May. He is now on a brief visit to the U.N. European office in Geneva to present to the U.N. library a book with the title "Tajikistan-U.N.—history of bilateral relations." The book is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations organization to be marked this year.

In the words of the ambassador, he will work on his new post to expand contacts with various U.N. bodies. Many of them, including the World Health Organization and UNICEF, have involved in Tajik development programs of cultural exchanges, health care, mother and child care and the like.

Russian State Duma Delegation Arrives 28 Apr

LD2904081795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Russian parliamentary delegation arrived in our republic yesterday. Its aim is to further expand the cooperation between the two countries' parliaments.

They have already exchanged views with President Emomali Rakhmanov on our country's political and economic situation, the Tajik-Afghan frontier, and the life of our republic's Russian-speaking people.

Today they are to meet with Supreme Assembly Chairman Safarali Rajabov. Then they plan to inspect the Tajik-Afghan border and the circumstances of the Russian frontier guards' service.

Russian Duma Delegation Ends Visit

LD3004124895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Russian State Duma delegation has ended its working visit to Tajikistan. Yesterday President Emomali Rakhmanov received the delegation. They exchanged views on cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Supreme Assembly Chairman Safarali Rajabov also had a discussion with the delegation. The State Duma delegates also visited a number of border posts.

Shortly before their return to Moscow, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party [of Russia], and Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the [Russian] Communist Party, told our correspondent that the visit to Tajikistan produced a good impression on them.

Tymko, Chechulin Study Situation on Afghan Border

LD2904114495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is the last day of the visit to Tajikistan by Colonel General Aleksandr Tymko, first deputy director of the Russian Federal Border Service.

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He spent four days personally studying the situation on the border. On behalf of the director of the Federal Border Service, he presented awards to personnel and took charge of the combat preparations of the border troops on the most difficult sections—the Khorog, Ishkashim, and Kalai-Khumb units.

Assessment the operational situation at the posts in an interview for "Vesti," Lieutenant General Chechulin, who is in command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, said it is too early to speak about a relaxation of tension.

[Begin Chechulin recording] I must say that the short period of relative calm which has reigned since the active phase of actions from 7 to 12 April has been brought about primarily by the resolute rebuff the militants received from the border troops and by the serious losses they suffered. But, of course, the latest positive moves which have taken place, in particular the consultative conference and the approach of the fourth round of talks, are having an effect. [end recording]

Russian Border Troops Reinforce Tajik-Afghan Border

LD3004103895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE April 30 (Itar-Tass)—The command of Tajikistan-stationed Russian border troops is taking additional measures for reinforcement of vulnerable segments of the Tajik-Afghan border. The troops expect more trouble at some of the border flanks.

Intelligence available to the troops' command says fighters of the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan movement are concentrating in the Afghan territory in close vicinity to the border with Tajikistan.

Small armed groups of Afghanistan-based Tajik rebels continuously try to infiltrate into Tajikistan.

The press centre of the Russian border troops reported that two factions of Tajik rebels numbering 30 on April 29 tried cross-border inroads near the 11th and 12th outposts of the Pyandzh border headquarters. A number of the rebels were killed by mortar and artillery fire, and the rest pulled back into the Afghan territory.

Acting commander of the 12th outpost of the Moscow border headquarters, Senior Lieutenant Nikolay Fomenko, in an interview with Itar-Tass confirmed the activation of the Tajik armed opposition.

Fomenko said the rebels attempted the intrusions to entrench in Tajikistan's territory and create ammunition dumps there to facilitate incursions of more massive rebel forces and attacks on border outposts.

Proof to that, Fomenko said, is the fact that the rebels try to cross the border with heavy burdens of arms, communications equipment and food, and are so far avoiding direct clashes with border guards.

The officer said the border forces use fire to force the rebels back and destroy the dumps. Fomenko said his border post is well equipped and manned, and has a stable communication with and support from the Russian 201st motorised infantry division.

The border troops' press centre said the Russian transport airforce had recently carried to Tajikistan a large reserve group from the Pacific border headquarters. The group is to be stationed at border areas where the danger of rebel invasion is greatest.

Zhirinovskiy on Tajik Conflict; Russians in Tajikistan

LD2804194495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1830 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 28 Apr—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said today in Dushanbe that a few Russian divisions could do much to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan. The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader has arrived in the capital of this Central Asian republic, the borders of which are being defended in part by Russian soldiers, as part of a parliamentary delegation from the State Duma of the Russian Federation. His travelling companions are the leader of the Russian communists, Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, Stanislav Govorukhin, and representatives of more than 10 Duma factions.

According to Zhirinovskiy, all political methods must be used to achieve peace in the region, but military force should also be employed where necessary. Zhirinovskiy believes that peacekeeping forces are a nonsense wherever they are used, but he called for more Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and Kyrgyz to be used to guard their sectors of the border "to have everyone bearing their fair share of the burden and to have no spongers."

On the situation of the Russians in Tajikistan, Zhirinovskiy said that the Russian Government should do everything to help them return to their historical homeland should they so wish.

The Russian communist leader, Gennadiy Zyuganov, called for political methods to solve Tajikistan's internal problem. At the same time, he once again stressed the communists' position that true stability "can only be attained on the basis of the restoration of the union state."

The delegation of Russian parliamentarians was received the same evening by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov.

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A meeting with Tajik parliamentary Speaker Safarali Radzhabov is expected on the morning of 29 April. The delegation will also fly down to one of the sectors of the Tajik-Afghan border. A news conference on the results of the visit will be held in the afternoon.

Parliament Calls on Opposition To Stop Bloodshed

LD2904093395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Konstantin Parshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Despite the inter-Tajik understanding to extend the ceasefire agreement by another month, which was reached in Moscow the other day, the armed opposition continues attempts to violate the republican border, and provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border became more frequent, says a statement circulated here on Saturday [29 April] by the presidium of the Tajik parliament.

"Words of opposition forces do not tally again with their deeds," the document stresses.

The statement notes that there is quite a number of refugees among armed opposition detachments based in Afghanistan, who are detained by force. They are deprived of an opportunity to return home and are forced to fight their countrymen.

The Tajik parliament called on all residents of the republic who had gone abroad, to stop the bloodshed and to return to their native places on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Second World War, for which thousands of Tajik citizens sacrificed their lives as well as on the eve of the Moslem holiday "Idi Kurbon".

Extension of Cease-Fire To Russian Troops 'Unacceptable'

MM0105080695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 95 First Edition p 6

[Report by Aleksandr Shinkin: "Storm Clouds Over the 'Roof of the World': Inter-Tajik Talks Continue in Almaty After Moscow "]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consultations held among representatives of the Tajikistan government and the opposition with the mediation of Ramiro Piriz Balon, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan, have ended in Moscow.

Before they began the Tajikistan Embassy in Moscow issued a statement which stressed that "there can be no alternative to talks" and that all the current disagreements must be resolved through dialogue alone.

Judging by statements in the press, the opposition delegation headed by Khodzhi Turadzhonzod, one of the Tajik Islamic Revival Movement leaders, would seem to be ready for a peaceful solution of the problems.

And these declarations by the sides have encouraged experts to believe that serious disagreements are unlikely to crop up at the meeting on the need to extend the cease-fire agreement on the Tajik-Afghan border which expires on 26 April, particularly as, in the opinion of Dushanbe and the opposition, there is no proper alternative to the agreement concluded in Tehran last fall.

However, it was this issue which proved a stumbling block at the consultations. The participants in the Moscow meeting simply failed to settle all these contentious issues. The government delegation insisted on the indefinite extension of the agreement on a temporary cease-fire and cessation of other hostilities both on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country. The opposition delegation, in turn, presented a list of counterdemands.

The opposition insisted, in particular, that the terms of the Tehran cease-fire accord should also apply to the Russian border troops guarding the Tajik-Afghan border.

However, this is—by definition—the wrong way to put the question. Yes, Russia recognizes the cease-fire agreement, as it does any other valid international document. However, the attempts to apply it to Russian border guards are tantamount to recognizing them as a third side in the conflict. This is unacceptable, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry, as the inter-Tajik conflict is of an internal nature, and Russia is merely at the UN-mediated talks as an observer. While the Russian border guards are carrying out strictly defined functions connected with protecting the CIS' external borders.

It was only at the very last moment that the decision to extend the temporary cease-fire agreement for one month was "extracted" from both sides by the mediators of the meeting. And a fourth round of inter-Tajik talks is to be held in Almaty before its expiry on 22 May.

The agenda has been agreed. It will include "fundamental questions concerning the constitutional structure and the consolidation of the state system of the Republic of Tajikistan." The following proposals notably fall within their ambit: proposals on a new constitution and a new election law; on the participation of all strata of Tajik society, political parties, movements, and public associations in the constitutional and lawmaking process; on the organization and holding of free and democratic elections in Tajikistan; on the transitional period and related issues, as well as the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in resolving the aforementioned tasks.

Deputy Karimov Slightly Wounded in Gun Attack

LD2804201695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1940 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—A car of Tajik deputy Khudzhu Karimov was put under machine-gun fire by unidentified persons at about 11:30 (local time) today in Dushanbe. The deputy was slightly wounded in his head.

The deputy's state is satisfactory. His body guard was taken to city hospital in grave condition.

The Tajik security ministry is investigating into the incident. Ministry staffers have refused to make any comments, saying they have several versions and it is premature to speak of any.

Karimov is an influential personality. Back in 1992 on the peak of the civil war in Tajikistan he was an active fighter against the opposition and a field commander of the Tajik Popular front which brought the current government in office.

Turkmenistan

President in Phone Conversation With Yeltsin

LD2604203795 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1330 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Report from Turkmen president's press service]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A telephone conversation took place today, 26 April, between President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan and President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. The two leaders exchanged views in detail on such matters as bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and Russia and the intensification of mutually advantageous Turkmen-Russian cooperation on equal terms. Both leaders agreed that it is in their long-term interests to strengthen friendly links between our states and peoples in every way possible, which would be a constructive factor influencing the situation in the region.

President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia praised the results of a visit recently made by a Russian government delegation to Turkmenistan. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Bolshakov led the delegation. Negotiations held in Ashgabat on bilateral cooperation in such spheres as economy, politics, science, culture, and education confirmed the willingness of both states to intensify and extend the mutually advantageous long-term partnership. The Turkmen and Russian presidents expressed satisfaction with the fact that bilateral agreements were approved and signed in Ashgabat on trade and economic cooperation for this year, on communications, transport, and air communications.

Saparmurat Turkmenbashy and Boris Yeltsin emphasized that the documents which were initialled and are now being prepared to be signed by the Turkmen president during his forthcoming visit to the Russian Federation have laid firm foundations for cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation. They praised the joint oil and gas projects as well as the program for creating a complex north-south transport infrastructure across the territory of Turkmenistan.

During the telephone conversation the Turkmen and Russian presidents exchanged views on Caspian Sea issues and spoke in favor of constructive measures based on multilateral agreement to ensure that a standardized system for using the sea is observed. [passage omitted]

President Receives Romanian Foreign Minister

LD2804190495 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1801 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By TURKMEN PRESS correspondent K. Ballyyev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ashgabat, 28 Apr—Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] met Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu at the presidential palace today. The high-ranking guest, who is in Turkmenistan on an official visit, handed over a message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu to President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy, who accepted it with gratitude. [passage omitted]

Melescanu then dwelled on the programs that are being implemented in certain areas of Romanian-Turkmen relations and voiced a Romanian proposal on arranging trade and banking affairs. The guest praised Saparmurad Turkmenbashy's steps to organize trilateral relationships and expressed the wish that a Romanian-Iranian-Turkmen agreement on cooperation could be reached, which would be of benefit to all participants. In addition, he noted that Turkmenistan's geopolitical location gives it a great deal of potential to develop transit routes. He set out a Romanian Government idea on this and voiced Romania's desire to take part in implementing the projects to lay new Turkmen fuel pipelines.

The Romanian foreign minister reported that a reciprocal visit by Romanian President Iliescu to Turkmenistan is being prepared. Melescanu expressed his gratitude to Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy for his cordial reception.

Fiber Optics Line Will Be Link To World

LD2804125395 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Meeting world standards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shanghai/Frankfurt-am-Main TransAsian-European fiber optics communication line will run across the republic [of Turkmenistan]. Construction work on the Turkmen section from Farab to Bajgiran, which is approximately 707 km long, should be completed by the middle of next year. Japanese, German, Italian, and Swedish companies are competing to obtain the contract to lay cables and to supply equipment.

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Fiber optics cables will ensure reliable and high-quality telephone communications between Turkmenistan and almost all countries of the world, although Ashkhabad already has modern direct communication links with all the member-states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) except Pakistan, with which communications are made through Iran for the time being.

The Turkmen capital will soon be linked to the ECOFOC [Economic Cooperation Organization Fiber Optics Communications] line, which is being laid by Iranian, Turkish, and Pakistani communications workers on the Istanbul-Tehran-Karachi route. At the same time, there are resources to increase the channels of the Intelsat and Turksat international satellite communications.

The general plan for developing the telecommunications system of the country envisions the reconstruction of city and intercity telephone exchanges in Ashkhabad and all regions. The Alcatel international corporation (its Spain- and Germany-based branches) hav constructed and put into operation new ATS [Automatic Telephone Exchanges].

Uzbekistan

Jurabekov Meets Polish Foreign Economic Relations Minister

LD2804170395 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1000 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, 28 April, Ismail Jurabekov, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan met Jacek Buchacz, the Polish minister of foreign economic cooperation. Jurabekov briefed the guest on the economic reforms being carried out in our republic. The first deputy prime minister noted that the visit to Poland by Uzbek President Islam Karimov has brought our people closer together and raised mutual cooperation between our states to a new level.

During the conversation they discussed the prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation between our countries in the areas of trade, light industry, food processing, and many other spheres. There was also an exchange of views and experiences regarding the economic reforms being carried out in both countries.

Otkir Sultanov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, took part in the meeting.

Minister in Trade Talks With Sultanov

LD2804084595 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Utkir Sultanov, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign economic relations of Uzbekistan, received Jacek Buchacz, Polish minister of foreign economic cooperation, on 27 April.

During the talks, U. Sultanov noted that Uzbekistan and Poland have been cooperating with one another in trading cotton fiber, foodstuffs, light industrial goods, machine-building, and other sectors for a long time. He emphasized that new possibilities are now emerging for developing these relations.

The common course taken by our countries in building states oriented toward the market economy requires the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation, Jacek Buchacz said.

Polish light industry, which has specialized in using Uzbek cotton for a long time, has an even greater demand for this raw material today. We are interested in cooperation with your republic not only in importing cotton fiber, but also in other sectors of the national economy as well, he stated.

During the meeting an exchange of opinions took place on plans for economic cooperation between the countries.

Draft Civil Code Adapts To Market Economy

LD2904191995 Tashkent OZBEKISTAN OVOZI in Uzbek 29 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The task of constructing a law-governed state is one that involves drafting new codes and laws designed to regulate social relations as well as to pass them in a thorough manner. One such important document is the republic's Civil Code. It is an important legal document that sets out property issues relating to citizens' daily life and activity under the conditions of the current market economy and on the basis of law.

As is known, the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted in 1963. Amended and supplemented, it has remained in force until now. However, due to grave shortcomings in the way it regulates social relations as a whole, it no longer matches the essence and content of our social system, which is changing from day to day. It is a law that lags far behind the legal reforms that are being implemented, and which fails to regulate relations in a market economy.

Paragraph 53 of our Constitution shows that diversity of forms of ownership form the basis for Uzbekistan's economy, which is aimed at developing market relationships. This is profound and significant in meaning. The further development of market relations has truly become our country's principal policy-line on the road of economic progress. The economy is not based on state [national] ownership as in the past, but on all types of ownership simultaneously: State ownership, company [firm] ownership, mixed ownership, ownership by other states and international organizations, ownership by legal entities and individuals, and on equal rights and free competition between these forms of ownership.

The draft Civil Code puts an end to the supremacy of state [national] ownership. It reflects private enterprises, leasing, business enterprise, mortgages, securities and

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stock exchange, and the main points found in other laws. It is natural that private ownership is listed first among the types of ownership.

Specific features related to the republic's national and local conditions have found reflection as far as possible. In terms of property, it recognizes ownership by local wards [mahalla] and peasant farms, and as regards intellectual property it recognizes decorative needlework and handicrafts of artistic value as property, and also reflects cases where inherited property can pass into the ownership of a local ward.

In addition, certain legal concepts and expressions have been renewed. For example, we may cite such points as ownership of goods, movable and immovable property, unfair competition, moral damages, business honor, the concept of securities, copyright names, etc.

A single time-scale has been established for bringing an action against a person in order to recover property that has been illegally transferred to them.

Particular attention has been paid to regulations for when statutes of limitation are not observed. The draft code sets out the legal basis for the return of national and historical valuables that were taken out of our country in the times of Tsarist Russia and the Soviet empire. There will be no statute of limitation for objects that are of historical, cultural, academic, and artistic value to the Uzbek people, and which were taken out of the country before the Republic of Uzbekistan proclaimed its state independence, irrespective of the procedures or ways by which they were taken.

New kinds of agreements relating to the market economy that is taking shape (e.g. leasing) and new terms (e.g. know-how, manufacturing secrets, profit models, etc.) are also reflected in the new code.

Particular attention has also been paid to legal entities in the Civil Code. The range of these has been expanded. In particular, their diversity has been taken into account. In addition to those that already existed, new kinds of economic companies and firms, joint-stock companies, limited-liability companies, increased-liability companies, economic firms, production cooperatives, lease enterprises, economic associations (corporations), firms, peasant farms, concerns and legal persons of foreign states are regarded as legal entities in the Civil Code and have the right to take part in legal relations.

Citizens' legal rights have been expanded. They are now free of the former restrictions that used to apply to their activities and have the possibility of using all kinds of property, tools, and means of production, and hired labor, to engage in enterprise and to make a profit.

Contracts are described in detail as documents stating obligations. This is defined by new concepts and rules. Such rules as those applying to an agreement being amended or annulled have been described in separate articles. The concept of a mortgage, the procedure for mortgaging and what can be put up as security have been described in detail, on the basis of the Law on Mortgages adopted on 9 December 1992. Such notions as the guarantee and warranty have been defined separately.

In drafting the rules for contracts stating specific obligations, particular consideration was given to aspects of relations pertaining to current market economic conditions, such as the significance of a contract of sale and purchase. Procedures for concluding deals at exchanges, auctions, and on a competitive basis, are described separately.

A completely different interpretation has been given to contracts to supply goods and to buy agricultural products. There are no longer restrictions such as assignments set under the state plan, or command-administrative methods.

A separate chapter of the draft code deals with contracts to provide services of a specific kind such as lawyers' consultations, medical services for payment, cultural services, and those financed by subscriptions, as well as technical examination and repair services for cars, and other consumer services, because the old code contained nothing about such relations on a contractual basis.

A separate chapter has been devoted to leasing, which is so new a type of relationship that until recently there was nothing about it in our legislation.

Furthermore, another new obligation has been defined: Until now, although damages could be claimed for material losses inflicted on persons, moral injury was not subject to compensation. Now, however, such damages can be claimed against the property of the person responsible. The legal provisions on these issues are laid down in a special chapter on "compensation for moral injury."

A separate section devoted to rights over the fruits of creative activity and copyrights falling within civil law have been enlarged by a few addenda. These addenda describe such rights as being equal ones. They cover the rights of the makers of recordings, protect the rights of authors of recordings that are used in radio broadcasts and television programs without the permission of the performers and producers, and protect performers, producers, and airwave and satellite broadcasters.

In addition, the code's law of inheritance has been filled out with quite new rules and sections on the legal capacities of foreign citizens and legal entities, the application of foreign laws and agreements, and other sections.

In short, all six sections, 47 chapters, and about 770 articles in the Civil Code have been worked out so as to suit our country's independence, civil rights and liberties, and the market relations, and to meet the demands of the times.

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Armenia

Bagratyan Not To Support Russian-Armenian Confederation

LD2804162195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, April 28 (Interfax)—Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan said that he does not support the idea of an Armenian-Russian confederation.

He told a rally of the Avtogenmash factory personnel in the town of Vanadzor on April 28 that he wanted Armenia to have a fully independent statehood.

Bagratyan said that the supporters of a confederation, chiefly communists, "try to cash in on the today's hardship and spred defeatism to win political capital in order to seize power."

"The Armenian people whose history spreads over millennia has to create a strong national state which will enable the nation to tackle the problems it faces," he argued.

Bagratyan believed that state sovereignty should not be traded for a couple of kilograms of butter.

He said that analysis of the today's economic situation revealed the merits of an independent domestic and foreign policy.

Bagratyan expected Russians also to oppose a confederation "because no people will tolerate somebody else exploiting their resources."

He said that when the reform has just begun to yield positive results, it would be harmful to doubt the country potential.

OSCE Delegation Visiting Region

Meets Foreign Minister

NC3004174095 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1134 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 04/30/95— Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan met the Chairman of OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Senior Council Istvan Gyarmati, and co-chairmen of Minsk group Rene Nyberg (Finland) and Vladimir Kazimirov (Russia) on April 29.

Press service of the RA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Ministry reported that the sides discussed the results of the visit of OSCE delegation to the region. They also touched the problem of resuming negotiations between the sides of the conflict without any pre-conditions, establishing control over cease-fire, return of prisoners of war and hostages. Considering May 12 as the first anniversary of cease-fire, the sides hoped that negotiations may restart in the first half of May.

RA Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan, head of OSCE Planning group General Heyki Vilen and other officials participated in the meeting.

Kazimirov Calls For POW Release

NC0105102295 Yerevan SNARK in English 1429 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] April 20 (SNARK) [dateline as received]—Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov addressed to journalists to help release all POWs and hostages who were captured during the Karabakh conflict. At a today's press conference on the results of the OSCE delegation's visit to the region, Kazimirov noted that it is important to release POWs and hostages until May 12, i.e. the first anniversary of the cease-fire in Karabakh.

According to Kazimirov, under Geneva Conventions which both conflicting parties respect, immediate release of all POW's and hostages should follow the cessation of hostilities. Kazimirov stressed that this is in the interests of Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples as well as of the international community.

OSCE Rep 'Favors' 10 Principles

NC0105103095 Yerevan SNARK in English 1429 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 29 (SNARK)—The OSCE Acting Chairman's Representative Istvan Gyarmati (Hungary) told Snark that he spoke in favor of the OSCE ten principles during the meeting with Azeri President Geydar Aliyev. Gyarmati stressed that any conflict including the Karabakh one may be settled only with the respect of these ten principles. This position of the OSCE must not be changed anyhow.

According to Gyarmati, the main task of the conflicting parties is to find possible combination of the ten principles in course of the negotiation process. The OSCE will accept any solution which is acceptable for the conflicting parties. The OSCE concerns that hostilities will not be resumed in Karabakh.

OSCE in Stepanakert

NC2904192195 Yerevan SNARK in English 1627 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, April 28 (SNARK)—The OSCE mission on settlement of Karabakh problem has arrived in Stepanakert today. The delegation includes the OSCE acting chairman's representative Istvan Gyarmati (Hungary), Minsk group representatives Rene Nyberg (Finland) and Vladimir Kazimirov (Russia), as well as OSCE diplomats and military experts.

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The delegation was received by NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] President Robert Kocharyan who stated the position of Karabakh side on peaceful settlement of conflict, the NKR President's spokesman said to SNARK. Equal account of interests of all parties involved in the conflict was stressed, as well as inadmissibility of any attempts to pre-determine the status of Nagorno-Karabakh before the final political settlement.

In their turn, the OSCE representatives spoke in favor of speeding up the negotiation process which provides step by step resolution of the problem. They stressed the special importance of strengthening the cease-fire regime under which international peace-keeping forces should be deployed in the conflict area as a primary condition for further solution of the key political problems.

Participants also discussed the POWs and hostages exchange issue.

The meeting was attended by the NKR Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasyan, Defense Minister Samuel Papayan and other officials. OSCE mission is expected to leave for Yerevan later today where it will meet the Armenian authorities.

Foreign Ministry on UNSC Statement on Karabakh

NC2904182395 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1649 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 28/04/95 NOYAN TAPAN—On April 28 the Armenian Foreign Ministry issued a statement in connection with UN Security Council's [UNSC] Statement on the Karabakh conflict.

On April 26 the UN Security Council made a Statement concerning the conflict in Mountainous Karabakh. According to the point 8 of the UN Security Council's 884 Resolution, before adopting a statement the Security Council had heard the account by the OSCE Minsk group Co-Chairmen Jan Eliasson and Valentin Lozinsky.

The account represented a course of the peaceful process, which was given a new form after the Budapest Summit. Along with this, the account informs about the completion of Sweden's presidency over the OSCE Minsk Conference. Starting on April 21, 1995 Finland took over the post of the Chairman of the Minsk Conference.

As a matter of fact, the UN Security Council's statement maintained the spirit of the earlier adopted documents concerning the conflict in Mountainous Karabakh. This statement is mainly designated to stimulate the process of the conflict settlement within the framework of the OSCE.

Resolutions adopted during the Budapest Summit also specified main directions of UN participation in settlement of this conflict.

The April 26 Document contains comprehensive reference to the main elements which bear great importance for the peaceful process, namely: deployment of peacekeeping force, clear specification of the sides to the conflict, immediate beginning of negotiations on conclusion of the political agreement on cessation of combat operations.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry regards the statement adopted by the UN Security Council as demonstrating strong aspiration of this international organization to reach a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Simultaneously the Armenian Foreign Ministry expresses hope that this document will give a new impetus for intensification of the process on settlement of the Karabakh conflict within the framework of OSCE Minsk Group and lead to effectiveness of further efforts by OSCE.

NKR 'President' Makes Statement on Elections

NC2904185495 Yerevan SNARK in English 1409 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, April 28 (SNARK)—Today NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] President Robert Kocharyan addressed NKR citizens in a statement concerning the April 30 elections to the Parliament.

The statement notes that the forthcoming elections are another positive step on the difficult road to NKR statehood.

The future parliament has to settle many complicated problems on setting up a legal base to create a real independent democratic state. The President called on all citizens to go to the polls and vote for those candidates who would be devoted to NKR and its people. He believes that the NKR parliamentary elections will demonstrate to the world community that the new Republic follows the path of freedom and democracy.

Nagorno-Karabakh Holds Elections

LD3004154195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, April 30 (Itar-Tass)—Residents of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh streamed to polling stations on Sunday [30 April] to elect a new parliament.

The Central Electoral Commission told Itar-Tass by telephone that voting proceeded actively and in an organised manner.

The voters will have to elect 33 deputies out of the 65 candidates running for seats in the parliament.

Commission officials said that by noon 75 per cent of the electorate had voted in the Gadrut district, and about 70 per cent in the Askeran district.

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These are the second elections in the mostly Armenian-populated enclave of Azerbaijan since it proclaimed independence in 1991. Nagorno-Karabakh has not been officially recognised by any country, including Armenia which provides it political and economic support.

Electoral Districts Formed

954F2179A Yerevan VREMYA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Ruben Manukyan, secretary of the Central Election Commission, by VREMYA, SNARK, and NOYAN TAPAN correspondents; place and date not given: "'All Candidates Are Equal'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] The Central Election Commission has completed the formation of districts. On what principle was this done?

[Manukyan] There is an electorate of approximately 2.3 million in the republic. The number of districts specified in the Election Act is 150. Consequently, each district should have approximately 15,500 voters. The law allows a 15 percent variation in this number. Plus or minus 2,250 persons, that is. This right was accorded the Central Election Commission so that it might have an opportunity to "tie in" the district division with the country's administrative-territorial division.

[Correspondent] But there could be an area whose population constitutes, for example, 20,000. So two districts with 13,000 voters apiece would be too many, one with 18,000, not enough.

[Manukyan] There were such instances. We had to affiliate to a district with its center in one area part of the territory of a neighboring area. This will create certain problems, but there was no other way of settling the issue.

[Correspondent] The Supreme Council gave preference to a new system for the formation of district commissions. Do you consider it to be the best. After all, the participation of nonparty persons in the work of the district election commissions is virtually excluded.

[Manukyan] Each party that has submitted an application to take part in the elections according to the proportional-voting system is entitled to nominate one representative for the district commissions. But it is not at all obligatory for this person to be a member of this party.

[Correspondent] This applies to the parties which intend to act at the elections in a bloc?

[Manukyan] Yes. Each participant in an election bloc may avail itself of the right to have its man on the district election commission.

[Correspondent] But it is not yet clear whether this party will amass the requisite number of signatures for participation in the elections by party list.

[Manukyan] If a party fails to amass the 10,000 signatures established by law, the membership of its representative on the commission will be automatically canceled. This provision will extend to all members of the election commission other than the chairman, whose authority is preserved even if his party has not managed the 10,000 barrier.

[Correspondent] And what if more than half the members of the commission are forced to relinquish their authority in this way?

[Manukyan] The minimum number of members of the district election commission is seven. If following the tallying of the results of the collection of signatures it is ascertained that fewer than seven persons remain on the election commission of some district, the Central Election Commission will propose that the remaining parties "delegate" to the commission one further representative each.

[Correspondent] And how will the precinct commissions be formed?

[Manukyan] The system will be analogous to that which I have described.

[Correspondent] How many electoral precincts will there be per district?

[Manukyan] From five to seven. Depending on the size of the electorate and the geographical layout.

[Correspondent] The mechanism of the nomination of candidates for deputy deserves to be described by you in more detail.

[Manukyan] As I have already said, a party that intends to participate in the elections according to the proportional-voting system has to collect no fewer than 10,000 signatures. In the event more than 300 invalid signatures are discovered on the lists that are presented, the party's application will be canceled. A candidate wishing to run for a specific district has to secure a minimum of 500 signatures of his supporters from the electorate of this district. Fifty signatures deemed by the commission to be invalid are sufficient to deny the candidate registration.

Each candidate will have to pay a deposit of 10 times the minimum wage, which will go to compensate some of the expenditure on the organization of the elections. If the candidate is elected, the amount deposited will be returned.

[Correspondent] Are signatures required of a candidate for deputy in a district if he is the representative of a party that has collected 10,000 signatures to participate in the elections by list?

[Manukyan] Absolutely. All candidates are equal.

[Correspondent] And the final question—concerning the order of priority. What and when?

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[Manukyan] On 20 April the Central Election Commission tallied the applications from the parties for participation in the proportional-voting elections. Applications will be accepted up to 27 April for the nomination of representatives for the district commissions. The chairmen of the district election commissions will then be elected. The final day for the surrender of the party lists is 5 May. The campaign for the collection of signatures for participation in the elections according to both the proportional and majority systems will begin on this same day. All signature lists are to have been handed in by 25 May. By this time the district election commissions will have determined the division of the districts into precincts and will have embarked on the formation of the precinct commissions. The final date for the registration of candidates for deputy by the majority system is 10 June. And then the home stretch, which will culminate on 5 July in elections to the National Assembly.

Supreme Council Presidium on Mass Media Issue

NC0105102195 Yerevan SNARK in English 1429 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 29 (SNARK)—The Armenian Supreme Council Presidium's ten members held today a press conference to discuss the results of their yesterday's session. The ten members who represented various opposition parties and parliamentary factions made a joint declaration to condemn the ruling party's policy before discussing the draft Constitution of Armenia. They stated that the draft Constitution disregards democratic principles and grants the Armenian president unlimited power.

The ten members stressed that Armenian authorities are increasing the pressure on mass media, particularly on "Golos Armenii" (Armenia's Voice) opposition newspaper in Russian and "Freedom" American radio station. According to them, Armenian authorities are trying to monopolize information with the help of progovernmental mass media including TV.

The ten members said the Central Election Commission on Forming Electoral Districts is creating the most favorable conditions for the ruling party's candidates. However, the situation in Armenia and the people's negative attitude toward the ruling party 's candidates are serious obstacles for their election.

Prime Minister on Operation of Nuclear Power Plant

NC3004182295 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1134 GMT 30 Apr 95

["Exclusive Interviews for RESPUBLICA ARMENIA"—ARAGIL headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 04/26/95—According to Armenian Prime Minister, operation of the nuclear plant will start in 45-50 days, probably in mid-June. Nevertheless, it will not supply electric power to the network for 15-20 days. During this period, its "behavior" will be under close investigation of scientists, and if a single parameter would not be corresponding to norms, it will be shut down again, despite $70 mln [million] spent for its reopening. This is not probable though, and the supply of electricity to the network is expected to start by the end of summer. Mr. [Grant] Bagratyan confirmed that population will be receiving 10-12 hours of electric power per day if operation of the plant is successful.

Bagratyan said that, today, minimal wage in the republic is 475 drams per month. It is expected to raise up to 535-540 drams in July, and to 860 drams by the end of year. He said that economy has stabilized at the expense of bad living conditions of the population. Now it is the time to think about people. Particularly, a sharp increase of wages is expected in state budget organizations, starting on January 1.

RA [Republic of Armenia] Minister of Economy Armen Yeghiazaryan confirmed planned liberation of bread prices. The Ministry expects that 1 kg of bread will cost no more than 100 drams in summer, which is completely sufficient to cover its prime cost. He added that the Government is not planning to increase the price for electricity, but corresponding tariffs may change with operation of the nuclear plant. He explained recent abundance of power supply to the population by increase of its frequency to 51 Hz, which is equal dangerous as lower frequencies. In other words, power producers have to provide excessive power to the population.

Azerbaijan

Armenia, U.S. Urged To Reciprocate Turkey's Move

NC2904203095 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 25 Apr 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara—U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Sunday [23 April] that he will name a special envoy to the Nagorno-Karabakh talks to seek a peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"The United States is committed to working with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe to encourage Armenia and Azerbaijan to move beyond their ceasefire to a lasting political settlement," Clinton said in a statement, according to AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

"The terrible effects of this (Nagorno-Karabakh) war have been felt throughout the Caucasus: tens of thousands have died, more than a million have been displaced, economies have been shattered and security threatened," he said.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been involved in an undeclared war for the last seven years over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan. In the fighting,

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Armenian forces have captured the whole of Karabakh and an additional 20 percent of the Azeri land. But an 11-month-old truce is currently holding.

In a separate development, Azerbaijan's foreign minister said on Monday that it was now Yerevan's turn to make a goodwill gesture in response to Turkey's decision last week to open an air corridor over Turkish territory to Armenia.

"Only if Armenia declares it will pull back from the Azeri lands it has occupied and sits at the negotiating table for effective peace talks, will it have properly responded to Turkey's act of goodwill," Gasan Gasanov told the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY in Baku.

"Following the openings of the air corridor, the United States, which has been urging Turkey to improve ties with Armenia, should also respond by lifting its economic embargo against Azerbaijan," he said.

Two years ago Turkey closed the H-50 corridor which allows flights to Armenia over Turkish territory in protest at an Armenian military drive. Turkey has close ethnic, linguistic and religious ties with the Transcaucasian republic of Azerbaijan. But Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, on a visit to the United States last week, ordered the reopening of the air corridor on April 18 in a "goodwill gesture" aimed at encouraging Armenia to accept reconciliation for an end to the war.

On April 21, technical teams from Turkey and Armenia finalized a protocol for the reopening of the corridor.

Turkey was one of the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991. But it has refused to set up diplomatic relations with Yerevan due to the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

Gasanov on Decision To Reopen Air Corridor to Armenia

NC2804200295 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 25 Apr 95 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku—Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov has commented on Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's decision to have the H-50 air corridor between Turkey and Armenia reopened. He said that "the United States and Armenia must respond to Prime Minister Ciller's decision by making certain concessions."

Stressing that Turkey, as an independent country, has the right to open or close its air corridors, Gasanov recalled the U.S. embargo on Azerbaijan and said that Washington must respond to Turkey's decision by lifting its sanctions. He asserted: "Meanwhile, Armenia will respond to Turkey's gesture if it discloses that it will withdraw its troops from Azerbaijan's occupied territory and agrees to resume the peace talks."

Regarding the pipeline that will transfer oil from the Caspian Sea to world markets, Gasanov said: "The laying of the pipeline through Armenia is out of question, that is as long as that country continues to occupy Azerbaijan's territory."

Gasanov also assessed Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's disclosure that Russia may use force to safeguard the rights of the peoples of the former Soviet Union. He said: "No one has given the right to Russia to threaten the other countries."

Gasanov also said that Kozyrev's disclosure was a violation of the former USSR peoples' right to sovereignty and an interference in their internal affairs. He asserted that a move by Russia's political representatives to inform the newly independent countries on Russia's friendly intentions would be a positive approach.

Aliyev on Lack of Progress in Karabakh Peace Talks

LD2804200695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku is ready for compromise on Nagorno-Karabakh if Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is reinstated, President Geydar Aliyev told a three-member delegation of the Minsk Group of the OSCE Conference for Karabakh.

It includes Russian and Finnish Diplomats Vladimir Kazimirov and Rene Nuberg and OSCE Envoy Istvan Gyarmati.

Aliyev called for further effort to release the occupied Azeri lands and repatriation of refugees before any discussion of the future of Karabakh. He said Baku's patience may snap if no progress is made in the release of occupied lands.

For his part, Gyarmati is hopeful that the visit can help resolve a range of technicalities hampering an early solution to the regional conflict.

Kazimirov praised the regional ceasefire holding for almost a year now. He outlined an OSCE four-stage peace plan providing for ceasefire, peace talks, a solution to humanitarian issues and the signing of a peace agreement.

However, Aliyev said there has been little progress since the establishment of the Minsk group in March 1992. He said that a sizeable chunk of Azeri territory was seized while international agencies had failed to pinpoint Armenia as an aggressor, let alone condemn it for violating UN Security Council resolutions.

In an earlier interview with Interfax, Azeri State Adviser Wafa Guluzade said the peace process "has run into a deadlock" while Karabakh officials continued to insist to

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be a party to negotiations, a position which he described as being unrealistic and not constructive.

He said Baku has conceded more than it can. It has now stopped demanding that all refugees be returned to the enclave and speaks of the need for repatriation of refugees to Shusha and Lachin. Guluzade said Baku was prepared to ensure the passage of humanitarian supplies to Armenia under international control and provide safety guarantees to Karabakh Armenians.

But he said Baku would demand guarantees of the country's integrity and inviolability of frontiers.

Baku-Moscow Deal on Gabalin Radar Station Near Completion

LD2804194895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A draft agreement on Russia's radar station at Gabalin (northern Azerbaijan) is near completion though the question of staff and the amount of payment to Azerbaijan remains unresolved, a presidential source in Baku told Interfax.

He said the Gabalin facility was more powerful than a similar station at Skrunda (Latvia).

The source said the issue was high on the agenda of recent talks with a team of Russian deputies led by Sergey Baburin and its meeting with President Aliyev. He said the Russian deputies had called for finalizing the negotiation and granting the facility the status of a Russian army base in Azerbaijan, he said.

In the meantime, a senior Azeri government official told Interfax that widespread speculations on the issue were unsubstantiated.

The source said the station belongs to Azerbaijan though can be run together with Russia.

He said Russia ran a millions of dollars energy bill to Baku for electricity supply to the station, but the dispute can be resolved as part of mutual debt settlement between the two countries.

Azerbaijan and Russia are expected to sign an agreement on the Gabalin facility in May.

To Have Status of 'Russian Military Base'

MK2904093995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 5

[Report by Arif Useynov under the "Cooperation" rubric: "Gabelin Radar Station To Get Russian Military Base Status"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The drawn-out talks on the future of the Gabelin radar station that became Azerbaijan's property in the wake of the USSR's disintegration will apparently soon end in a sensible compromise. In the view of specialists, the station—which is still financed by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry—cannot close because no normal functioning of strategic arms systems is possible without it. However, the station's operations require much electrical power, costing billions of Russian rubles.

In accordance with an agreement prepared on the utilization of the Gabelin radar station, Azerbaijan is to offer Russia a long-term lease to operate the station; for as Alik Abbasov, deputy general director of the Azerbaijan Airspace Agency, admits, the republic cannot run it on its own. The commission that has drawn up the agreement thinks it possible to lend the Gabelin radar station the status of a Russian military base, the only one on the territory of Azerbaijan. Terms for leasing the station are currently being worked out.

The station's further use by Russia's military department is conditional, under the document, on the observance of measures providing for the maintenance of a normal radiation level. According to specialists' data, since the station became operational in 1984, the radiation level in Gabelin rayon and adjacent rayons has gotten three times worse. Whereas this circumstance was ignored by the Defense Ministry in Soviet times, radiation safety is now a mandatory condition for the station's existence.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Meeting Ends

TA2904155395 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2010 GMT 28 Apr 95

[Report by Veysi Kayiran in Baku]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the Legal and Political Affairs Committee of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [BSEC] Parliamentary Assembly has ended in Baku. Muhtar Mahramli, deputy from Tekirdag and head of the Committee, held a news conference where he said that the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly is trying to ensure that the occupationist mentality in the region is unaccepted, but that it has no direct power to enforce sanctions. He pointed out that the Assembly made representations regarding this issue both with the OSCE and the EU.

Replying to a question on the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Mahramli said: We are trying to bring the two sides together so that a final solution can be reached. Within this framework, we decided to hold in Batum, Georgia, on 3-4 July, the seminar on peace and stability in the Black Sea region which was originally scheduled to be held here. Our aim is to put an end to the fighting in the region and to ensure that Europe intervenes.

Mahramli said that the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly Committee will hold its sixth meeting in Kishinev in Moldova in October.

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Guliyev: No Oil Transportation Variant Chosen

LD2804172095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, April 28 (Itar-Tass)—No variant of Azerbaijani oil transportation to the West has been chosen, Azerbaijani parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev told a news conference here today.

In his words, there are four such variants. One of them provides for oil transportation to Turkey via Iran which can hardly be accepted by the international consortium that signed an agreement with Azerbaijan on joint development of three Caspian oil deposits in September 1994.

Another variant provides for building the export oil pipeline via Northern Caucasus to Novorossiisk, in which Russia is believed to be interested.

There is also a variant to build the pipeline from a Turkish Black sea port via Armenia, but it can be fulfilled only on condition of liberation of Azeri lands occupied two years ago by Armenian units and signing of an Azeri-Armenian political agreement on conflict settlement.

The fourth variant, nicknamed Georgian, is expected to cross Georgia and wind up in Batumi. It is not excluded that oil to the Black sea port will be delivered by railroad. The speaker said that this variant is a good one, but did not explain why.

According to confidential sources, the Georgian variant was discussed at a recent visit of the U.S. Undersecretary of Energy to Baku and Tbilisi. The visitor had negotiations with Azeri President Geydar Aliyev and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze. Being aware of friendly relations between the two leaders and Azeri-Georgian relations that are described "as developing and have a tendency towards consolidation," one can suppose that this variant will be approved. However, the last word is to be said by the Ruling committee of the Azeri international operational company named the international consortium.

Sources at the Baku headquarters of the consortium told Itar-Tass today that a regular meeting of the ruling committee will be held on May 3-4 in London to discuss the pumping of oil from Caspian deposits and construction of the export oil pipeline. The oil extraction will begin in 18 months.

Plan Asked For To Carry Caspian Oil Across Russia

MK2804110095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report "First Oil From the Caspian Will Be Transported Via Russian Federation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijan company developing the Caspian shelf has asked the Russian "LUKoil" company to design a plan for transporting "early" oil from the Azeri and Chirag deposits. This was announced by "LUKoil" President Vagit Alekperov. In his words, "LUKoil" will prepare a corresponding document together with the Azerbaijani "Baktransneft" company. The plan is supposed to be turned over to the Azerbaijan company for consideration early in May. During the year, Azerbaijan intends to export up to 7 million tonnes of "early" oil in 1996-1998 as Caspian shelf deposits are developed. [sentence as published]

Discovery of Radioactive Material Investigated

NC2904210395 Paris AFP in English 2038 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, April 29 (AFP)—Azerbaijani authorities have launched an inquiry following the discovery of a container dumped at Baku airport a year and a half ago and found to contain radioactive material, judicial sources said Saturday [29 April].

The container, which was sent from Amsterdam by the French company Schlumberger, had been officially addressed to the national petroleum company Gosknefticoncern, prosecutor Abdul Dagirov said.

However it was likely the address was a cover, he told a press conference.

The container was opened by Azerbaijani customs officials since nobody had come to claim it since its arrival at Baku airport in December 1993.

According to Dagirov, the officials found 763 kilogrammes of radioactive material inside.

"It's the first time we've encountered a problem of this kind," the prosecutor added.

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Georgia To Be Transit Route for Iran

LD3004191195 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1557 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Speech by President Eduard Shevardnadze at a meeting with local government officials; place and date not given; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ....You might have heard that one deputy [not further identified] said in connection with the Iranian president's visit to Georgia: Why have we embraced Iran? He went on to use the words.... [Shevardnadze pauses] I did not say anything then, but I have to say now that referring to the visiting president of a foreign country as a disciple of the devil and so on is an example of loutishness and lack of culture. This disgraceful incident took place in parliament. [indistinct

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remark from the audience can be heard] Perhaps we should do it. It was a disgraceful incident. Unfortunately, my friends from the parliamentary majority did not have the courage to leave the session hall in protest.

I do not know if there is anyone here today who thinks that the Iranian president should not have come and that we should have said no to his visit. Considering our history, I believe that such a visit should be a festive occasion. The president of a country with which we had difficult relations for centuries has now visited us as an equal partner, as a neighbor and friend in order to seek ways for better cooperation. Is it good or bad? One does not need a lot of brains or analytical skills to realize that it is a sign of recognition and respect and that it indicates good prospects.

It became clear that Iran wants to transport several million tonnes of goods through Georgia—at least 7-8 million tonnes (?a year)—and that it wants to begin as early as this year. It was no accident that the president visited the towns of Poti and Batumi and the ports there. He became convinced that for him this would be the shortest route to Europe. Ships carrying Iranian goods to Europe and European goods from Europe to Iran will need 10 days less to do it if they use Georgian ports. The same is true of Central Asian and Gulf countries. Can you imagine how much 10 days can mean for these countries in terms of savings and profits? This will also mean enormous revenues for Georgia.

The issue of building oil pipelines in Georgia is also being examined. It is difficult to guarantee that they will certainly go through Georgia. However, transporting large amounts of oil through Georgia is one of the most likely and realistic options. [passage omitted]

Official on Armenian Air Corridor, Turkish Ties

NC2804194495 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 25 Apr 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara—Turkey, by its decision to open its air territory to flights from Armenia, has taken a step that will contribute to peace in the region, Georgia Parliament Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze said.

The speaker said that the closure of Turkish airspace to planes to and from Armenia posed a difficulty for Georgian aircraft coming from that direction.

"Peace and stability in the Caucasus is important. Turkey and Georgia both want this. The Turkish decision to open their airspace to Armenia is a good step for peace in the region," he said.

Goguadze said that the fact that Tbilisi gave Russia part of its conventional arms ceilings stemmed from their need to obtain Russian help for the modernization of their armed forces. "Russia supported and helped the Georgian armed forces at the time when we needed to modernize," he said. "Unfortunately, we must take note of the realistic situation. Without Russian help, we cannot modernize our army," Goduadze said, saying that transferring their military ceilings for conventional arms to Russia was "a concession they had to make."

We have also asked Turkey to assist in the modernization of our army, the Parliament speaker said.

The speaker stressed that the relations between Turkey and Georgia were excellent. "The Turkish Parliament is the parliament we have best ties with in the world," he said. Maintaining that there are eleven ethnic Georgians in the Turkish Parliament, he said: "They love Turkey as their homeland, but they also love and care for Georgia. This also enhances the relations between the two parliaments." Asked about the pro-Abkhazian lobby in the Turkish parliament and how he assessed Turkish policy regarding this problem, he said:

"The Abkhazian problem is right at the Turkish-Georgian border, so it is natural that Turkey takes a close interest. But Turkey has always made it clear that it is against such disorder. The Turkish official position is that Ankara has never supported this and recognizes the legitimate government of Georgia as well as its territorial integrity," he said. "Abkhazians are our brothers and we both want peace. It is clear, as it was in the talks last year, that it is third parties which want the conflict and the continuing disorder." The Georgian speaker, asked to clarify who the third parties are, said that he did not want to pinpoint Russia.

"It is not Russia, it is not Azerbaijan, it is not Armenia. It is not any one country. But after the collapse of the ex-Soviet Union, various imperialist circles have emerged. These reactionary forces, unfortunately still remain and hope to make benefit from disorder in the region. They are in all the countries of the former Soviet Union, they are not only in Russia."

Abkhazia Issues Statement on Russian Peacekeepers

LD2804160795 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1325 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia today circulated a statement saying that the peacekeeping operation carried out by the Russian troops has failed and the ethnic cleansing of the Georgian population still continues. The statement also says that under the current circumstances, an automatic extension of the mandate to the Russian peacekeepers is unacceptable. If, in the near future, there are no positive developments in the region, then the attitude of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia toward a peaceful settlement will change radically.

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Extension of Peacekeepers' Mandate Suits Both Parties

LD2804162095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 28 (Interfax)—The extension by CIS member nations of the mandate of the peacekeeping force in the Georgian-Abkhazian war zone to the end of the year "suits both warring parties albeit for opposite reasons"' Irakly Machavariani, Georgian leader's adviser, told Interfax Friday [28 April].

He described as "baseless" the speculation that if the Russian peacekeepers are withdrawn, Georgia could resolve the issue militarily. Machavariani emphasized that this position could be detrimental for Georgia.

In his view, the crisis of the separatist regime in Abkhazia is getting worse daily and that it will disintegrate shortly because the separatists have failed in fulfilling any of the promises they made. Machavariani recalled that Abkhazia has not been recognized by anybody as an independent state, it is blockaded and its economy is in shambles.

According to Machavariani, peace will be the ruin of Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian leader, while war can resuscitate his regime.

Machavariani also believed that the Russian-Georgian relations have reached a stage at which the strategic interests of the two countries in the Caucasian region are as similar as they can be. For this reason, he said, Russia can bring leaders such as Ardzinba to his senses.

Tbilisi Insists Abkhaz Peacekeepers Assume Police Function

LD2904164195 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1200 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 29 Apr—According to the [Tbilisi-based] Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the [Tbilisi-based] Supreme Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia are opposed to the extension of the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, which expires on 15 May, unless the return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia starts in earnest by that date and their safety is guaranteed.

It has emerged from reliable sources that intensive consultations on extending the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone are under way in Moscow. The position of the Georgian side is that the mandate may only be extended if the Russian peacekeeping forces are entrusted with policing duties and provide real protection for the Georgian population, who are being persecuted by Abkhaz militants.

According to the Russian Embassy in Georgia, Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba was in Moscow from 20 to 27 April for talks with Russian officials. He met Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and Konstantin Zatulin, the chairman of a standing commission of the State Duma. On behalf of the Abkhaz leadership, Ardzinba demanded that the mandate of the peacekeeping forces deployed in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone be extended beyond 15 May.

Tbilisi Denies Preparing Offensive Against Abkhazia

LD2904164795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 29 Apr 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 29 (Itar-Tass)—Georgia's radio and television denied on Saturday [29 April] rumours that the Georgian army was allegedly preparing an offensive against Abkhazia.

The report said that the Georgian leadership had repeatedly stated its commitment to a peaceful political settlement in Abkhazia.

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Estonia

Premier Reaffirms Foreign Policy Direction

LD2804174895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a speech to diplomats accredited to Estonia, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said that the government is to continue the existing foreign policy direction. The prime minister told ambassadors that the two main issues of the Estonian foreign policy are the normalization of relations with Russia and integration into European structures.

Vahi said that the government will take a pragmatic approach to the normalization of relations with Russia. From the position of foreign policy, Vahi said, the main task is to sign the association agreement with the European Union. Foreign Affairs Minister Riivo Sinijarv is to sign the agreement on 29 May.

Vahi said that after signing the EU association agreement, the priority will be to join GATT. The prime minister noted that Estonia continues to move toward joining the West European Union and NATO and intends to intensify its participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

Agreement Signed With Sweden To Clear Mines

LD2804152495 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement was signed today between Estonia and Sweden under which four naval ships will arrive in Estonia on 6 May, to begin on 8 May the clearing of Estonian territorial waters of the mines discovered in the sea during the examination carried out in 1994. Captain Rolan Leit [commander of Estonian naval forces] told the ESTONIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY that 11 mines are known to be in the sea, and five located on the seabed near Paldiski will be the first to be made safe. Once this operation is carried out the Paldiski sea route will be completely safe.

The captain added that two-thirds of the mines which have been in the Gulf of Finland from the World War Two years have been found, and so, nearly 3,000 mines are still to be found.

As the job of clearing the seabed of mines is a dangerous task a Swedish helicopter will be on duty near the site, with help quickly available on board should there be an accident. The Swedish side will be covering the expenses of the Swedish Navy during the operation, which according to Swedish Ambassador Lars Gruenberg will amount to nearly 2 million Swedish kronor. The clearing work will be completed on 18 May. Then it will be decided whether the work is to continue.

Defense Minister, Italian Delegation Meet

LD2804140195 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Andrus Oovel had a meeting today with representatives of the Italian Defense Ministry's defense research institute. The delegation was led by Carlo Siano, the Italian ambassador to Estonia, and by (Filipo Anfuso), an ambassador with special powers.

According to the [Estonian] Defense Ministry's press service, both parties acknowledged that the more hesitant and slow the Baltic states are in their move toward membership of NATO and European organizations the more room there is for Russia to implement any possible plans hiding behind its foreign minister's statements. Representatives of the Italian Defense Ministry's defense research center stated that Italy is closely watching what is happening in Estonia. They emphasized that if things are quiet on the Estonian border the whole of Europe may feel at ease.

Italy would be able to assist in both training Estonian military lawyers and in the creation of a combined defense forces training center in Paldiski.

Defense Minister Favors Joining NATO Soon

LD2804185495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, April 28 (Interfax)—Estonian Defense Minister Andrus Oovel said he was in favor of Estonia joining NATO as soon as possible.

The Estonian Defense Ministry's press service told Interfax today that Oovel had made his opinion known at his meeting with a delegation of the Italian Institute of Defense Research in Tallinn.

Oovel said that security was the main problem for the Baltic states. He said, "The slower Estonia is moving towards NATO and other European structures, the more chances Russia has to make statements similar to that of its foreign minister."

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said last week that Moscow could use force to defend Russians living abroad.

At the same time, Oovel said he hoped that Russia would develop democracy which "will create pre-conditions for creating truly safe space."

Oovel told the Italian delegation that Estonia was interested in Italy preparing Estonian military legal experts and constructing a training site for the Estonian Defense Forces in Paldiski.

The Italian institute prepares top military, economic officials and statesmen for the Italian army. The Italian institute's delegation came to Estonia after visiting Latvia and Lithuania.

Latvia

Ministry Opposes Demolition of Skrunda Radar

MK2904080895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Defense Ministry Opposed to Demolition of Russian Radar in Skrunda"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Demolition of the unfinished building of the former Russian radar in Skrunda by blowing it up, and a lack of well-founded security guarantees regarding the operation of the existing radar, run counter to the bilateral agreement on the status of the station, a statement by the Russian Defense Ministry commission says. By estimates of Russian Defense Ministry specialists, realization of the decision made by the Latvian side "may disrupt the operation of the existing radar and imperil the life and cause damage to the property of personnel servicing the radar."

False Missile Attacks Warned if Radar Site Razed

LD3004193495 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has sharply criticized Latvia's intention to blow up the unfinished building of the Skrunda radar station in western Latvia. The ministry warned that waves from the explosion might affect the equipment of the nearby radar system still in use. Therefore, false alarms of missile attacks are possible.

The ministry recalled an accident that happened this year when the Russian air defense forces shot down a Norwegian meteorological rocket that [words indistinct].

Expert Sees Political Motive for Base Destruction

LD3004110895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 30 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 30 (Itar-Tass)—The May 4 explosion of the unfinished building of the early warning radar station in Skrunde, Latvia, has a political rather than military aspect, Itar-Tass was told today by Boris Zhelezov, an expert of the Russian Centre for National Security and International Relations.

Zhelezov said Latvia and other Baltic states have made a nationalist show of the programme of scrapping this military installation left behind the Russian troops after their withdrawal from Latvia.

The monolith concrete building which was intended for a modernised equipment of the radar station was no threat to national security of Latvia and could be brought down after August 31, 1998, the agreed deadline for operation of the Russian station.

However, Riga authorities decided not to wait for expiry of the agreement. The expert said this move was designed as a moral pressure on Russia in the wake of the statement by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to the effect that Russia should protect expatriate Russians by any means, even the military force.

The statement stirred fear in the Baltic states which became sovereign owing to democratic reforms in Russia.

The vocal campaign of erasing the leftovers of the "Soviet empire" in the form of the radar station was a response to the statement, Zhelezov said.

If there was no Kozyrev's statement, Latvian extremist forces would have found other devices for a show of defiance.

The expert said the explosion of the station's building did not affect the combat effectiveness of Russian anti-missile system, but it did affect the Russian attitude to Latvia's leaders.

Latvia is showing off in the days of the world celebrations of the victory over Nazism, Zhelezov said.

The explosion story has yet another dimension. Baltic media are at pains to stress that an American firm had contracted for the demolition of the building, and the U.S. administration had allocated six million dollars for the explosion project.

With the Moscow visit of President Clinton and his meeting with Yeltsin ahead, the response of the Russian leadership may prove just what Latvia sought or more.

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